Hafa Adai!

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No clear answers on Tinian groundwater for military use. » PAGE 3

Trader says wife, in-law forced to transfer property. » PAGE 6

OPEN AIR DUMP JAYSON CAMACHO

Tinian's dumpsite has become a longstanding eyesore, with trash that is spread in all areas with no segregation nor specific areas to place which from which. According to Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas, the Tinian municipality has been working on identifying a new location for a landfill to address, this including a transfer station that is still in the works for permits with environmental regulatory agencies.

Tussle over land results in TRO

» Best Sunshine said to be interested in property

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A company that is constructing a four-story commercial building on a public land in Garapan has asked for and been granted a temporary restraining order that prevents the Department of Public Lands from conveying any part of 1,950 square meters of the property it wants to another.

See TUSSLE on Page 4

4 potential grazing areas for Tinian farmers

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Marine Pacific Forces assured the Tinian Cattlemen Association that it will not lose funding from U.S Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service because the U.S. military has already identified new areas within leased lands that is available for grazing.

Last week, MARFORPAC and the CNMI government signed a lease back agreement that will allow the island's ranchers the use of military lands until July 2016.

In an email to *Saipan Tribune* over the weekend, MARFORPAC executive director Craig B. Whelden said the military has been engaging with stakeholders on multiple occasions to understand concerns with the future of cattle grazing within the military leased lands on Tinian.

"Working collaboratively with a variety of groups—most notably, the Tinian Cattlemen Association and USDA—we have been able to identify new areas within the leased lands that could be made available for grazing that will not conflict with the proposed ranges and training areas," he said.

"The newly identified lands would replace, almost one for one, currently

See FARMERS on Page 4

Harsher penalties eyed for illegal disposal of wastewater in Garapan

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Bureau of Environmental Quality will work to beef up its regulations for illegal disposal of wastewater in the Garapan area, as they move forward to complete an interagency cleanup of the village's storm drains before the rainy season hits in March or April.

Runoff pollution is known to cause the many hits of red flags in the Saipan lagoon over the course of the year, and especially after heavy rain—the red flags warns off people from impacted beaches as a health precaution.

In an interview, BECQ administrator Frank Rabauliman pointed to a case three years ago where a business in Garapan had illegally pumped their waste into a storm drainage that directly led out into the nearby lagoon.

While he would not disclose the vio-

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Military proposes 'hybrid' approach on divert plan

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

The U.S. military has proposed a "hybrid" approach as an option for the Pacific Air Forces Divert Initiative.

Ranking officials led by Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar, commander, Joint Region Marianas and U.S. Pacific Command's Defense Representative for CNMI, had a meeting with Gov. Eloy S. Inos to discuss the plan, a statement from Capital Hill released on Friday said.

RELATED NEWS
➤ CPA meets with lawmakers over divert airfield. PAGE 5

Bolivar

Under this option, the military is proposing to add infrastructure to both Saipan and Tinian civilian airports, noting that both airports would still be operated as they are today, under civilian authority, with the goal of reducing any potential interference with civil aviation operations and expansion plans on Saipan.

The U.S. military is said to be "committed to looking at all possible options, to include a combination

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INSIDE

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Min Joo Jung's dream as a young boy to sail the world has come true.
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"Birdman" spread its wings at the 30th Independent Film Spirit Awards.
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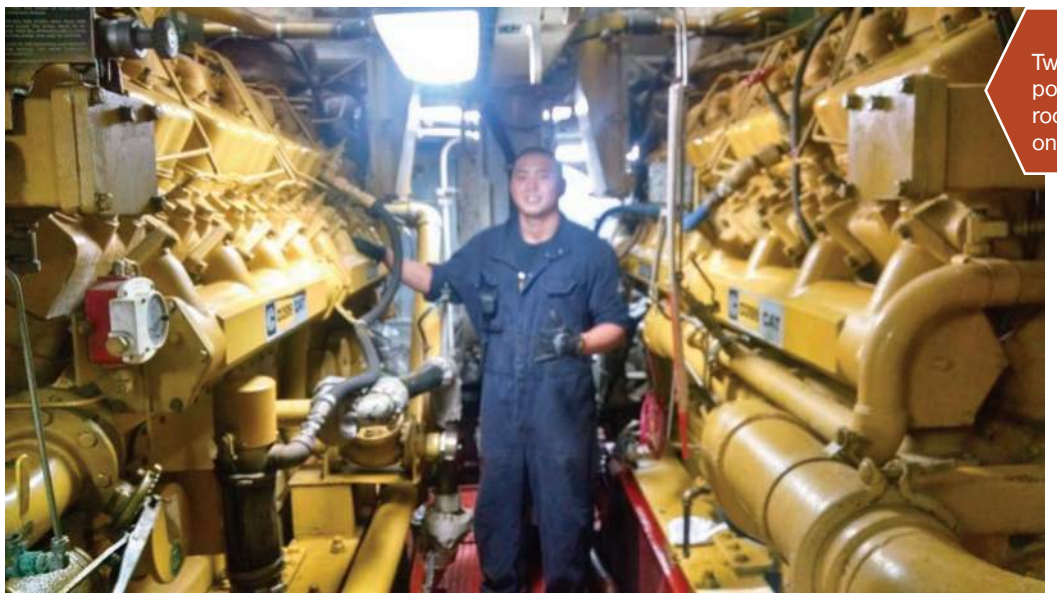
Local

MIN JOO JUNG: MARINE ENGINEER

From the shores of Saipan to sailing the world



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Twenty-three-year-old Min Joo Jung poses for a photo in the engine room on the ship he works on while on island for a short visit.

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Sailing the world was a dream for Min Joo Jung as a young island boy. Now, in just a matter of months, he has traveled to destinations in the United States, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Sri Lanka, and Singapore.

The 2009 Mount Carmel School alumnus is a marine engineer serving as a 3rd Assistant Engineer of the Military Sealift Command, where he monitors and operates the ship's propulsion plants and systems.

The 23-year-old Saipan native obtained a bachelor's degree in Marine Engineering Systems at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York, and graduated magna cum laude last year. He also attended the New Mexico Military Institute for a year, a prerequisite to moving on to King Point.

The best part of the job, he said, is being immersed in different cultures as he travels the globe.

The perks of working on an international traveling ship did not come easy for him though. Graduating with honors and ultimately securing employment are feats he never thought he would achieve.

"The difficulties I faced mostly had to deal with the sudden need to adapt to the rigorous lifestyle and education that was set in front of me right after leaving Saipan," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "I was never the brightest crayon in the box, so I had to work 10 times harder than I ever had to even be considered on the same physical and intellectual level as my classmates and peers."

In the end, hard work was the key component to everything he accomplished. "That as all that was needed for me to be where I am right now."

Min Joo also never dreamt of becoming an engineer. "I've never thought of myself as being an engineer. The closest engineering work that I had done prior to going to Kings Point is changing tires, fixing my computer, or changing the oil in my car."

After taking preliminary engineering classes, he was instantly hooked.

"I was fascinated with all the innovation aboard a ship and all the engineering it took to manufacture and operate one. I started seeing everything around me with a new perspective and from then on I knew I wanted to become an engineer."

Min Joo attributes much of his success to his alma mater, the island's sole Catholic educational institution, and his parents, In Young Jung and Ae Seon Bak.

"MCS provided me excellent teachers and instructors in becoming a proper student for my college years," he explained. "Not only were the teachers an influence in my life, but also the friends and classmates that were there with me. My friends in MCS made such a positive impact in my life to be a better person and I am grateful for each and every one of them. Without all these influences in my life, I would not have gotten to where I am today."

He spent his entire elementary and middle school years at Saipan Community School.

Min Joo urges island youth to "always be better than yesterday" and unlock their potential.

"Whether it is—spiritually, physically, or mentally—you must always be better than yesterday. If you do that, I can promise you that you will find yourself achieving things you thought you could never achieve," he said."… Fulfill your potential, be grateful for what you have, but don't ever be complacent of where you stand."

Miss Teen to launch culture and heritage campaign

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Northern Marianas Academy junior Gianna Chantal Camacho was crowned last year as Miss Teen Marianas, running under the platform of culture and diversity. This year, Camacho will soon be launching an event and campaign that will encourage young girls to represent their culture and heritage.

"I would like to encourage not only teens but everyone to have an open mindset, try to think of things in a different way and accept the diversity that we encounter in our everyday lives," she told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

Culture, she explained, is important in many ways. " It provides a backbone for one to stand upon, generally accepted and understood values and terms. …Culture also plays a huge part on people's individuality. Living on Saipan we are surrounded by numerous cultures that can help us stand out and be unique."

In September, the Marianas Visitors Authority sent Camacho to Japan to represent the islands in the annual JATA tourism expo.

"It was an amazing opportunity where I met many different people and was able to educate them about the Mariana Islands and try to get them to visit to experience our unique culture as well," she said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Miss Teen Gianna Camacho.

By having more teens engaged in island culture, Camacho hopes to help teens find their true identity.

"Before I joined Miss Teen I was very shy, and it was hard for me to get close to new people. By joining I was able to improve my social skills and speech skills. It also opened up a huge number of other opportunities that I could attend."

She urges schools to provide extra-curricular activities that enable students to participate in cultural practices.

"I believe supervisors and teachers really need to be passionate about what they're teaching and encouraging the teens to do so that they can become inspired and stick with the new activities that they try," she said.

Tourism Topics

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

26th Annual Tagaman Triathlon
March 22, 2015

The Annual TAGAMAN Triathlon will celebrate its 26th running of the event on Saipan March 22, 2015. The early registration deadline is Friday, April 27, 2015.

Once again, the TAGAMAN Triathlon will offer both a Half Ironman and Olympic Distance events. Cash prizes for the Elite Division for Half Ironman only, and awards for the Age Group Division will be awarded respectively. There will also be a relay with awards only.

The TAGAMAN has gone through several changes over the years, making the course more interesting for triathletes and better for spectators, and for the second year in a row, extending the race to half-ironman distance, utilizing the same basic course outline. There will also be an additional shorter course of the Olympic Distance.

The following weekend the 14th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship March 28, 2015, which again will be a qualifier for the World Championships on Maui in November.

For more information or to register on-line, visit www.saipansportsfest.com.

Saipan Tinian Rota

HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

No clear answers on Tinian groundwater for military use

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The U.S. military's possible plan to build groundwater wells on the two-thirds of Tinian land it leases were posed by military officials in recent ad-hoc discussions between them and the CNMI, confirmed a Cabinet member with knowledge of these talks.

But CNMI officials also posed the question as to who has say over the groundwater under these lands, it was learned. They also suggested that the military find, assess, and rehabilitate existing wells left over after World War II in the northern part of the island, versus building new ones.

A Marine Forces Pacific spokesperson in Guam was asked if the military had plans to construct groundwater wells to support future activity last week. The spokesperson was also asked to clarify who had say over this resource.

The spokesperson indicated that this information would be addressed in the draft environmental impact statement for proposed combined live-fire and artillery training on Tinian and Pagan when it was released.

Further clarification or context on these plans were requested but were not provided as of press time.

Who has say over the groundwater? According to Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality administrator Frank Rabauliman, this would be a public resource.

He pointed to the Commonwealth Groundwater Management and Protection Act that gives the Division of Environmental Quality oversight over CNMI groundwater.

"And that goes to anybody," he said. "Just because you own that property doesn't mean you can dig in and extract as much groundwater as you can," Rabauliman clarified.

Asked about management of this groundwater, Rabauliman said they would prefer that water used on Tinian be hooked up to the island's waterline.

"But we also realize the military may be too far away from the last mainline of [the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.]" which may extend somewhere near the Westfield airport, he said.

"Ideally, if everybody could hook up to the water line that would be the best way for us to manage the groundwater," he added.

He said in their last ad-hoc meeting military officials gave a walkthrough on what they are considering and what they intend to do, heading into the DEIS due later this year.

But Rabauliman noted that areas not included were wastewater and water.

"They had solid waste [management], but they didn't have wastewater and water and so that was highlighted," he said.

The military was asked "to come back with that considered," he said. "Because those are going to be issues that need to be addressed," he added.

For the bureau's part, Rabauliman indicated that rehabilitating existing wells might be the better option, as far as groundwater management goes.

"But depending on where [military] facilities are going to be," he said. "We just need to look at that case by case."

Saipan Tribune learned that groundwater wells were dug on Tinian for use during the war, but there was no clear handing over these wells right after the war ended and before the lease-back agreement was signed between the military and the CNMI in later years.

In 2000, the U.S. Geological Survey rehabilitated 11 wells on Tinian, it was learned. Five were put in operation but are right now on standby. These wells are all on civilian property.

But more wells may exist on the military's side of the fence, it was learned, and that is why the CNMI suggested that the military find these wells and rehabilitate them for their use.

Patrick San Nicolas appointed to TCGCC

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas last week appointed Patrick San Nicolas to the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission.

San Nicolas, who has been serving with the TCGCC for 10 years as an inspector, was appointed on Feb. 18, 2015.

According to Tinian Mayor's Office military policy adviser Eric C. San Nicolas, who also handles or helps with public affairs, Patrick San Nicolas was officially informed via an appointment letter by Joey San Nicolas.

Other appointees that were nominated include David M. Cing, Don Farrell, Jose P. Kiyoshi, and Kimberly King-Hinds. Patrick San Nicolas was among those nominated and got chosen out of the five.

"He has extensive knowledge of the Revised Gaming Act. Prior to serving TCGCC, Patrick San Nicolas was a police officer at the Tinian Department of Public Safety. Patrick San Nicolas has been domiciliary of Tinian for all his life," Joey San Nicolas said.

Joey San Nicolas said he believes among the other nominated appointees that Patrick San Nicolas has the knowledge to serve as a commission member.

"I am happy to appoint him to TCGCC who will fulfill his responsibilities as one of the commission members and will help serve as one of the members to review TCGCC regulations," the mayor said.

Search for missing student suspended

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard suspended the search Friday for a student reported overboard from a Japanese training vessel approximately 70 miles southwest of Kauai.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the missing student's family, friends and loved ones," said Capt. Shannon Gilreath, commanding officer for Coast Guard Sector Honolulu. "Suspending an active search is a difficult decision to make. We have exhausted all available resources in our efforts, but pending further developments, we have decided to suspend the search."

The Coast Guard and Navy conducted an extensive search of the area, conducting 36 sorties, totaling 140 mission hours and covering approximately 14,192 square miles.

Involved in the search were an HC-130 Hercules airplane crew from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point, the Coast Guard cutter *Kittiwake*, homeported here, the Coast Guard cutter *Kiska*, homeported in Hilo, the USS *Lake Champlain*, homeported in San Diego, Calif., a Navy Lockheed P-3 Orion aircrew from Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Oahu, the *Hokuho Maru* and eight other Japanese training vessels.

Watchstanders at the Coast Guard Sector Honolulu Command Center were notified at 9:56am, Tuesday, regarding a 17-year-old male Japanese national who was reported overboard from the 208-foot Japanese training vessel, *Hokuho Maru*, during their transit from Honolulu to Japan. The man was last seen at approximately 2:50am, and was reported missing after he did not show up for muster. He was last seen wearing a light green jump suit. It is not known if he was wearing a life jacket. ***(USCG)***

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COMMONWEALTH LOTTERY COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Special Meeting of the Commonwealth Lottery Commission will be held at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at the Juan Sablan Memorial Building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. The public is invited to attend.

The following is the proposed agenda:

I. **Call to Order**
II. **Roll Call/Determination of Quorum**
III. **Public Comment**
IV. **Adoption of Agenda**
V. **Adoption of Minutes**
VI. **New Business**
  A. Proposed amendment to Casino License Agreement to authorize the operation of a temporary live gaming training facility
    1. Licensee's proposal for temporary live gaming training facility
    2. Location of temporary live gaming training facility
    3. Other issues pertaining to the amendment
    4. Public comment
VII. **Old Business**
  A. Adoption of Video Lottery Regulations
VIII. **Executive Session**
IX. **Adjournment**

For further information, please contact the Lottery Commission by telephone through the Office of the Finance Secretary at 664-1100.

FARMERS

From Page 1

leased lands and a transition plan is under development," he added.

Whelden said that in the interim, MARFORPAC has worked with Joint Region Marianas to extend the current lease from a month-to-month status to a long-term lease through 2016.

"Tinian cattlemen are able to access USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program grant money that was previously unavailable. My staff looks forward to continuing discussion with the stakeholders on this important issue, and other," Whelden added.

A draft MARFORPAC map prepared in February this year and obtained by *Saipan Tribune* through various sources showed four potential agricultural grazing areas within the military leased area. Two areas of potential for ranchers are north of Tinian International Airport, while the other two are west of the airport.

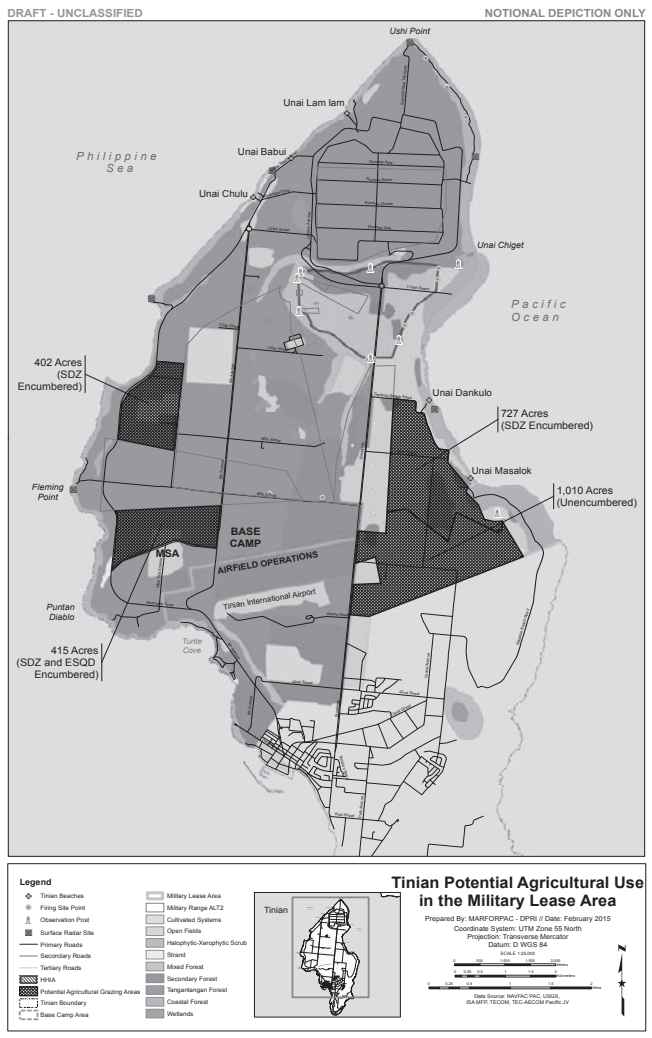
Earlier, Department of Navy's Real Estate Division director C. Hope Marini wrote Department of Public Lands Secretary Pedro A. Tenorio authorizing CNMI to use the leaseback property until July 31, 2016, noting that land use analysis is presently underway for grazing purposes if and where compatible with Department of Defense purposes after termination of the lease back.

Whelden noted that more will be seen with the release of the draft CNMI Joint Military Training for Environmental Impact Study early April.

According to Marine Corps Activity Guam Maj. Neal V. Fisher II, the CJMT EIS will be released online and via delivery of CDs to various public locations such as libraries, community centers, CNMI's mayor offices, etc.

"The public will be able to submit comments immediately after its release via email or standard mail and in person during the public meetings [on] Saipan and Tinian which will occur in May. As we move closer to the spring we will be able to provide an exact date for both the release of the draft and the public meetings," Fisher said.

Fisher also said that Whelden visits the CNMI fairly regularly to meet with various elected officials and stakeholders regarding the progress of the CJMT EIS.



MILITARY

From Page 1

of development on both Saipan and Tinian."

The military said its presence for exercises on Saipan would be scaled down from the Saipan-only approach.

Outside of a crisis, the anticipated maximum Air Force activity would be two to four tanker aircraft for up to eight weeks per year from CNMI airports, with the majority of activity on Tinian, the military said.

Allowing the Air Force to divide its projects between Saipan and Tinian would provide additional assurance that "deconfliction" with civil aviation and other Commonwealth Ports Authority activity will not be an issue, the military said.

"Collaboration between the military branches and the CNMI ensures all options are considered, in the spirit of continued openness in the process and through regular meetings between CNMI and military stakeholders."

However, the Inos administration "continues to express a preference for a Tinian alternative."

Both sides agreed that the National Environment Policy Act process should be completed so that all involved parties can make an informed decision, the statement adds.

Government officials and military top brass have been holding a series of meetings on the proposed divert plan and with it an Environmental Impact Statement that the U.S. military has to release.

Inos earlier said the EIS on the divert airfield "would probably come out in April."

The divert airfield is intended to be an alternative landing base for Air Force planes if Andersen Air Force Base in Guam becomes unavailable because of weather or war.

CNMI officials are unified in their request to put the divert airfield on Tinian, where two-thirds of the island is already leased to the U.S. Department of Defense. DoD, however, wants it on Saipan.

TUSSLE

From Page 1

H.S. Lee Construction Co., Inc. is planning to build parking spaces for its commercial building but Best Sunshine International, Ltd. apparently opposed the carving of the lot as it is part of a big land needed for its casino project.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman issued the TRO on Friday at the request of H.S. Lee Construction Co., Inc. pending a hearing and determination of its motion for preliminary injunction. The judge set the hearing on the preliminary injunction on March 2 at 9:30am.

Assistant attorney general Peter Prestley, counsel for DPL and Secretary Pedro A. Tenorio, opposed the TRO, saying he does not see any irreparable harm and immediate threat that H.S. Lee Construction will suffer.

Prestley said he had just spoken with Tenorio, who informed him that there's no lease agreement yet between DPL and H.S. Lee regarding the land. Prestley said they are still negotiating and in fact there is no agreement yet as to the price.

Attorney William Fitzgerald, counsel for H.S. Lee Construction, said the court can issue the TRO based on his client's verified complaint.

Fitzgerald said DPL first agreed to reserve 1,950 square meters for the 68 parking spaces of H.S. Lee's building but it later claimed the land will be needed for the casino project.

Fitzgerald said if his client is not given the piece of land, they will lose everything, their investment, thus causing irreparable injury.

"We're talking about a very small property," said Fitzgerald, referring to their compromise for 1,000 square meters instead of the initial 1,950.

In an interview after the hearing, Prestley said the TRO is a first step on the way to a preliminary injunction. He said H.S. Lee Construction has to show a reasonable likelihood of success on the merits.

"They are fighting to lease some public land and they don't have the lease to enforce at this point," he said.

Prestley said he does not think H.S. Lee's injuries are irreparable because any damage can be repaired with money.

"A TRO is a 10-day thing and usually granted. So we have preliminary injunction hearing on March 2," he said.

Prestley disclosed that Imperial Pacific applied for the whole piece of property located in front of I Love Saipan building, but there's no lease agreement between anyone yet on that property.

In H.S. Lee Construction Co. Inc.'s complaint and request for TRO and preliminary and permanent injunctions, Fitzgerald said that, on May 12, 2014, H.S. Lee Construction wrote a letter to Tenorio about its plan to build a four-story hotel and commercial space in Garapan.

At a July 13, 2014, meeting with H.S. Lee's representatives, then-acting Zoning Board administrator Maryann B. Arriola determined that 68 parking spaces would be needed for the proposed project, which meant they would need 1,950 square meters more of land to meet Zoning's parking requirements.

Shortly after that, Fitzgerald said, H.S. Lee representatives wrote Tenorio about Arriola's determination and sought to enter into a lease for 1,950 square meters of land.

On Sept. 10, 2014, Tenorio sent a letter to H.S. Lee representatives, stating that DPL "has reserved a portion of public land per your request, but awaits final review and approval, until such time that information being requested to formalize the permit are submitted by your firm."

Based on the assurances received from government officials to grant the required public land, Fitzgerald said H.S. Lee entered into a 32-year lease with Triple J. Saipan for the establishment of an international chain restaurant on the building's ground floor.

On Oct. 24, 2014, H.S. Lee representatives learned that a proposed casino operator was now also seeking use of the same 1,950 square meters of public land.

At the Oct. 28, 2014 meeting, Fitzgerald said Tenorio informed H.S. Lee and associates that it was his impression that a Zoning permit had already been issued for the development project and that no additional land was required for the project.

The lawyer said Tenorio stated that, based on this assumption he sought to cancel the public land commitment to H.S. Lee and transfer this commitment to the casino.

However, H.S. Lee and Triple J. Saipan representatives corrected Tenorio by stating that no Zoning permit had been issued, and that a restaurant using 8,000 square meters on the ground floor requires 68 parking spaces and the 1,950 square meters of public land.

In an offer of compromise, Fitzgerald said Tenorio stated that if H.S. Lee and Triple J representatives would reduce the request for public land from 1,950 square meters to 1,000 square meters, this would allow him to satisfy the needs of both the casino and H.S. Lee and help the government.

On Oct. 28, 2014, H.S. Lee representatives sent a letter to Tenorio, stating that as a compromise they would be willing to reduce their request to 1,000 square meters, although this would require design and construction of a two-story parking deck at great costs to them.

Based on the government's assurances of accepting the 1,000-square-meter compromise, Fitzgerald said H.S. Lee paid architects to design a new parking structure and site plan to accommodate the proposed hotel and restaurant uses.

Fitzgerald said Rachael Roque of DPL then informed Triple J representatives that DPL had changed their mind again and now would only grant 290 square meters of land to H.S. Lee.

On Jan. 28, 2015, H.S. Lee associates contacted Tenorio to state that the new proposal to reduce the assigned public land to 290 square meters would not meet their requirements for the international chain restaurant and hotel uses and was contrary to all previous agreements and assurances.

On Feb. 9, 2015, Fitzgerald said H.S. Lee and Triple J representatives met with Tenorio and DPL staff and were informed that the casino group had rejected the compromise and now wanted the government to "severely limit" the public land granted to H.S. Lee and give all the remaining 1,950 square meters of land that had previously been reserved for H.S. Lee to them.

Fitzgerald said H.S. Lee and Triple J representatives informed Tenorio and staff that this new reduction was another breach of an agreement and was not acceptable.

HARSHER

From Page 1

lator, he called this deliberate tapping of a storm drainage as "almost criminal in nature." But because of regulations BECQ is required to give violators time to comply, Rabauliman said. The administrator was not able to assess fines on the spot.

"We want to make sure that we don't find ourselves in this same situation," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "We are working on the regulations as we move forward with this cleanup… So we will be able to assess a fine right then and there."

But while they hope to finish the cleanup before the rainy season hits, the bureau is also looking for funds to contract out the project.

According to Rabauliman, the project is estimated to cost $35,000. Recently, the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors voted to co-fund half of the project, or some $15,000, in their meeting last month.

"I am very encouraged and pleased that MVA is stepping up to assist," Rabauliman told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said BECQ will look within their agency for the remaining funds.

The project continues what BECQ, the Department of Public Works, and MVA, among other agencies, started last year in the Garapan proper. According to BECQ, they used their manpower and some small funding to contract out a local company to pump out waste in the main Garapan storm drainages.

With the help of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., which provided a pump truck, Rabauliman said their aim was to "pump [waste] out as much as we could to landfill it" instead of having it wash out into the ocean.

"Unfortunately time ran out on us," he said. "We headed into the rainy reason. As a result we were only able to clean up the major…the big drainage systems there instead of the secondary [drainages]."

"Ideally, we would like to contact the whole project out, and just sparingly use some of our staff to monitor the project as it moves forward," he added.

According to Rabauliman, the drainage system hasn't been cleaned the last 15 to 20 years.

Primary drainages head out to Fiesta Resort and Spa, while the other one main drainage discharges into wetland around American Memorial Park.

The secondary drainages crisscross the roads in Garapan. People "in the front lines" of the project will be going into the several manholes throughout this area, Rabauliman said.

The plan is to get into the small, secondary drainages and flush them out into the big drainages so "that way we will have more access in pumping out" the sediment.

They will "pull out whatever we can in regards to dirt, debris and then get to a point [where they can] use fire hoses to flush [waste] out into main drainages so we can landfill it," Rabauliman said.

After this, they aim to do "a smoke test through the drainage systems" to detect any illegal tapping. They also have the means to place dye into the wastewater system to find culprits as well.

"We want to try to as much as we could to reduce contamination that runs out into drainage system. If we can prevent any wastewater being directed into the storm drainages, we are going to try to prevent that from happening…to minimize the sediments, the pollution that is running out to that area. We have individuals swimming yards away from it," he said.

CPA meets with lawmakers over divert airfield

The Commonwealth Ports Authority met with Precinct 1 lawmakers last Thursday to give a briefing on the U.S. Air Force's divert airfield plans for Saipan and Tinian.

CPA outlined their position—from their September 2014 resolution—to "site divert at CPA's facilities on Tinian," according to executive director Maryann Lizama.

"The concerns of siting divert on Saipan, particularly within the Dandan plateau of the airport affecting the surrounding communities and residents" was also outlined, as contained in last year's resolution, she told *Saipan Tribune.*

Saipan is the Air Force's preferred alternative for its divert plans in the CNMI, according to a draft environmental impact statement published earlier. The CPA board of directors essentially said "no" to this alternative in their September resolution.

The resolution echoed concerns the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had over this alternative, where they had declared the Air Force's DEIS to be "insufficient." The agency cited noise impacts on Saipan residents as severe, saying this is inconsistent with directives requiring hearing loss risk to be properly estimated.

Whether CNMI lawmakers draft a similar resolution akin to the ports authority remains to be seen.

Asked if there was a "collaborative" resolution in the works, Lizama clarified that "CPA has already issued its resolution regarding divert and the position remains unchanged: Divert shall be sited and permitted on Tinian and CPA will support an airport layout plan to that end."

"Whether the House and Senate will issue resolutions on the issue articulating the Legislature's position on divert is a policy decision left to the representatives, including Precinct 1," she said.

Thursday's meeting included House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan); Reps. Edwin Propst (Ind-Saipan); Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan); Lee "Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan); Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), and Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan). Representing CPA were executive director Lizama; Wendi Prater; board members Benigno Sablan, Frances Mafnas and Thomas P. Villagomez; and CPA counsel Robert T. Torres. Wesley Bogdan, governor's counsel for military activities, represented the Inos administration. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

Manglona sanctions Brown-Blackburn

The federal court has sanctioned attorney Pamela Brown-Blackburn for not complying with the court's decision and order pertaining to her representation of Carlton Stevens, a former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. staff who is suing CUC and some of its officials for alleged discrimination.

At an order to show-cause hearing on Thursday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered Brown-Blackburn to pay a $500 fine no later than Feb. 27, 2015.

Manglona also required Brown-Blackburn to pay CUC's expenses, including attorney's fees and costs, for having to file the motion for an order to show cause why Stevens should not be held in contempt.

The judge directed attorney James Sirok, counsel for CUC, to tender his billing to Brown-Blackburn by March 17, 2015.

Brown-Blackburn may object to Sirok's billing by March 24, 2015.

Manglona allowed Brown-Blackburn to amend Stevens' third amended complaint consistent with the court's Dec. 3, 2014, order. Stevens was given until Feb. 27, 2015, to file his amended complaint.

CUC had asked the court to require Stevens and his attorney to explain why they should not be held in contempt for failing to comply with the court's decision and order.

In his third amended lawsuit, Stevens sued CUC and its officials: executive director Alan W. Fletcher, human resources director Francisco Cepeda, wastewater manager Richard Wasser, and wastewater and wastewater manager Paul Raczkowski.

Stevens is demanding unspecified damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

In CUC's motions for order to show cause and for dismissal of the third amended complaint, CUC counsel Sirok asked the court to find Stevens and his counsel in contempt for the failure to comply with the Feb. 4 order.

Sirok said in the Feb. 4 order, Manglona specifically limited the amendment "to alleging facts and attaching documents that are relevant to the determination of whether Title VII's filing deadlines and other exhaustion requirements have been met."

Sirok said Manglona also noted that in the initial complaint and first amended complaint, Stevens sued four individuals in their personal capacities, and that the she dismissed all claims against the four with prejudice.

Dismissed with prejudice means Stevens cannot re-open the claims again the four.

Sirok said Stevens merely deleted numerous allegations, and in doing so added some 39 new ones. The third amended complaint also continues to identify the four individuals as defendants, he said. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

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WHILE DETAINED IN CHINA FOR 22 MONTHS

Trader says wife, in-law forced to transfer property

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A businessman who claimed that he was detained for 22 months in China during a dispute with business partners disclosed that while he was in jail his wife and daughter-in-law on Saipan were forced to sign several documents purporting to transfer all of his business property and personal belongings such as gold jewelry, diamonds, and precious stones worth over $300,000.

Wanzhong Yu made the disclosure in his cross-claims against Mingan Jin and Jinwei Guo for conversion, false imprisonment, malicious prosecution, abuse of process, defamation, and trespassing.

In his cross-claims, Yu, through counsel Mark A. Scoggins, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to declare him and others—and not Jin and Guo—as the rightful shareholders, directors, or officers of Universal Group Development Inc. and J&S Corp.

» Items include gold jewelry, diamonds worth over $300,000

Yu is demanding unspecified damages against Jin and Guo.

Scoggins said Jin and Guo used their influence over government officials in China's Jilin Province to have him arrested in May 2012 and detained for 22 months.

On Nov. 22, 2013, while he was still being detained under conditions amounting to torture, Yu was threatened with at least five more years of detention if he would not sign some documents purporting to be his resignation from Universal Group and J&S Corp. and transfer of his shares in the two companies to Guo.

Scoggins said Yu wrote his name on the three documents but did not write his signature.

Less two months later, Scoggins said, on Jan. 5, 2014, Jin coerced Yu's wife and his daughter-in-law to sign a series of documents purporting to transfer all of Universal Group's and J&S Corp.'s business property, and his and his family's personal property to Jin.

The lawyer said the property Jin attempted to coerce from Yu's wife and his daughter-in-law consisted of real property and keys to the doors of the property, all office equipment, account books, seven vehicles, merchandise of the now defunct Hailan Market, furniture, electrical equipment, gold jewelry, diamonds, and precious stones.

Scoggins said the value of the business and personal property is in excess of $300,000.

Scoggins said Jin promised Yu's wife and daughter-in-law that Yu would be released from detention if they would sign the documents. Scoggins said the two women signed the documents.

Scoggins said that based information and belief, Jin has already begun liquidating the Universal Group's and J&S Corp. business property and the personal property of Yu and his family.

Scoggins said between Nov. 22, 2013, and January 2014, Jin and Guo created fraudulent documents purporting to be minutes of a meeting of the shareholders and directors of Universal Group and J&S Corp.

Scoggins said the documents purport to show that Yu and Universal Group's and J&S Corp. three other shareholders transferred all of their shares to Guo. He said the documents also purport to show that Jin and Guo had been elected as the new officers and directors of J&S Corp.

Scoggins said that in January 2014, Jin and Guo filed the fraudulent minutes of the alleged shareholders and directors meeting as well as a fraudulent annual corporation reports for both companies with the CNMI Department of Commerce.

Scoggins said it was only after Jin and Guo had taken control of the two companies that Yu was released in China in March 2014.

Scoggins said Jin's and Guo's actions have caused the closure of Universal Group's two businesses—Hailan Market and the Oriental Dumpling Restaurant.

Scoggins said that after Yu's release from detention, Yu returned to Saipan and began making efforts to assert control over the two companies and to reclaim the property.

As a part of these efforts, Scoggins said, Yu sent wrote First Hawaiian Bank, informing the bank about what happened to him in China. He asked the bank to hold the two Universal Group bank accounts, which the bank did.

The dispute among Chinese shareholders first came up after Universal Group sued its alleged former president and shareholder, Yu, for conversion and First Hawaiian Bank for breach of contract.

Universal Group, through counsel Samuel Mok alleged that Yu and the bank have blocked the company from gaining access to $225,000 of its own funds from a business savings account.

Yu maintains that he is still president of the company and that he was detained in China for 22 months caused by political influence exerted by his former business partners.

First Hawaiian Bank has already asked the federal court to allow it to deposit with the clerk of court $224,558.71 in Universal Group's savings account.

First Hawaiian Bank, through counsel Richard L. Johnson, requested the court to order that after depositing the funds in the account with the clerk of court, the bank be discharged from the lawsuit.

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**AMENDED
NOTICE OF AUCTION
UNDER NOTE & SECURITY AGREEMENT**

Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to that certain Security Agreement (Chattel Mortgage) The Commonwealth Development Authority will hold an auction on 19 used Trikes.

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The items are being sold **"AS IS"** and **"WHERE IS"**;
2. The items are being sold **WITHOUT WARRANTY** of any type;
3. The public auction will be held at CDA Conference Room, 1st Floor of the CDA Building in Oleai, Saipan on **Friday, March 6, 2015 at 2:00 pm.**;
4. The Buyer at auction will be responsible for removing the items at the day of sale;
5. Terms of the sale are cash, credit card* (Master Card and Visa only) or certified check; and
6. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

credit card payments are charged additional 2% above sale price for processing fee.

Full payment of the bid amount is required before the property can be removed from the CDA Office. Payment must be received before end of business day, 4:00 p.m. Friday, March 6, 2015. Failure to make full payment will cause award to be null and void and the next highest bid will be considered.

The Trikes will be available for inspection on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at the rear parking lot of CDA Building in Oleai. For Inquiries, please contact CDA at 234-6245 ext. 304, 307, 309 or 310.

Job Vacancy Announcement

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. has immediate job openings for the following positions:

Position: Cook (2)
Position Summary: To prepare and cook food for a small restaurant, control wastage, clean galley and kitchen appliances and work areas, to ensure cleanliness and a functional operation and to be able to prepare and cook food promptly, in presentable and delectable way.

Position Requirement: High school graduate. GED or equivalent plus 3 years work experience as cook in a restaurant or hotel. Preferably with experience in Western, Japanese and Chinese cuisines. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized and self-discipline. Must be able to communicate in English and Chinese language.

Position: Waitress (2)

Position Summary: To take orders and serve food and beverages to patrons on the Gaming floor and restaurant in the Club. Maintain the Club presenting a clean and presentable appearance.

Position Requirement: High school graduate. GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as waitress in a restaurant or hotel. Able to communicate clearly and possess a good command of verbal and written English. Preferably Chinese Speaking. Must have good organizational skills, self-discipline and problem solving skills.

Position: Bartender (2)

Position Summary: Require an energetic, professional staff member who has an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Focused on professionalism and providing a superior customer experience. The ideal candidate must possess in depth knowledge about Wines, Spirits, Cocktails and other drink ingredients.

Position Requirement: College Graduate Degree or equivalent. Able to communicate clearly and possess a good command of verbal and written English. A minimum of 2 years' experience working within a 4* / 5* star establishment as a Bartender.

Position: Electronic Gaming Machine Technician (1)

Position Summary: Responsible for the efficient running of all electronic gaming machines, servers and IT systems. Repair, service and maintain electronic gaming machines in order to minimize down time of machines which results in loss of revenue. Organize the activities of maintenance and technician contractors.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED, technical school plus a minimum of 3 years work experience as a slots or e-gaming machine technician in a casino or equivalent or any equivalent combination of experience, education and/or training in e-gaming machines repair, service, and maintenance skills can be demonstrated. Able to communicate clearly in and possess a good command of verbal and written English. Knowledge of various types of electronic gaming equipment used on casino floor and demonstrate the skills and ability to diagnose problems, take corrective action necessary, and ensure device is operational as quickly and efficiently as practical.

Position: Guest Service Manager (1)
Position Summary: To ensure that excellence in service is provided to Club's guests through Guest Services and that appropriate complimentary privileges are accorded Junkets and Premium Players and that all their needs and requirements are attended to.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED, technical school plus a minimum of 3 years work experience in a casino or equivalent or any equivalent combination of experience, education and/or training and at least minimum experience in Supervisory Position. Able to communicate clearly and possess a good command of verbal and written English and Mandarin Chinese. Excellent Public Speaking and communication skills. Computer literacy. Word Processing skills. Effective negotiating skills. Effective Problem solving skills.

Please send detailed resume by email to: hr@clubcsaipan.com. Deadline for submission of completed applications is on March 2, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Court urged to exclude gory photos of crash victim

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A pastor of the Good Church who was driving the Toyota Sienna van that crashed into a power pole in As Perdido Road, killing a woman who was 5 months pregnant in June 2014, has asked the Superior Court to exclude the gory and gruesome photos of the victim during the trial.

Chang Hee Nam, 58, through counsel Steven Pixley, asked the court in the alternative to limit the number of photos that will be shown at trial.

Pixley said Rule 403 of the Commonwealth Rules of Evidence provides that the court may exclude relevant evidence if its probative value is substantially outweighed by a danger of undue prejudice.

"The photographs…of the victim are gory, gruesome, and revolting," Pixley said.

The photos, the lawyer pointed out, appear to depict substantially the same scene and that the multiple photographs add nothing in the way of probative value.

"Therefore, they present a danger of unfair prejudice to Mr. Nam," said Pixley, referring to 10 photographs of the victim, Hong-Mei Sung.

Pixley said while the introduction of one or two such exhibits may be permissible under the Rules of Evidence, the use of 10 photographs that have inflammatory potential is excessive or repetitious and the probative value of such evidence is eclipsed by the tendency to prejudice the jury.

At the time of the accident that happened on June 22, 2014, at 11am in As Perdido Road, Nam was transporting four individuals from San Antonio to attend the Good Church in Kannat Tabla.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Nam with homicide by vehicle, reckless driving, speeding, operating a vehicle with passengers not using a passenger restraint system, and operating a vehicle with a child passenger not using a child passenger restraint system.

Police said the van, occupied by five persons, was traveling east when it lost control by the curve and crashed into the pole.

Public warned of dangerous surf until Tuesday

A large north swell generated by strong winds associated with a winter storm east of Japan will maintain hazardous surf across the Mariana Islands through tomorrow afternoon, Tuesday, according to the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, citing data from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam.

A high surf advisory is now in effect until 6pm tomorrow, Feb. 24. Hazardous surf of 9 to 12 feet on north facing reefs will prevail through Monday afternoon then gradually drop to between 8 and 10 feet by Tuesday morning.

Surf will remain hazardous through Tuesday morning and then expected to fall below hazardous levels by Tuesday evening. Hazardous surf will produce life-threatening rip currents along north facing reefs.

A small craft advisory remains in effect until 6pm Tuesday. Northeast winds will be between 20 and 25 knots through Monday, then 15 to 20 knots with frequent gust to 25 knots through Tuesday afternoon.

The combination of a large north swell and wind waves will produce seas of 10 to 11 feet through Monday, then 8 to 10 feet through Tuesday afternoon.

The public, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary, exercise caution especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets. Do not venture near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north facing reefs, as rip currents will be life threatening. ***(HSEM)***

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Kia Rio LX retail price $16,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $269.22 or $124.26 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $16,153.20.
Kia Forte LX retail price $17,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $285.06 or $131.57 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $17,103.60.
Kia Soul LX retail price $18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $300.90 or $138.88 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $18,054.00.
Kia Sportage LX retail price $22,495.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $356.34 or $164.46 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $21,380.40.
Kia Sedona LX retail price $30,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $490.99 or $226.61 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $29,459.40.

Jewell to address Interagency Group on Insular Areas

» Kia'aina to lead discussions on climate change, workforce development, tourism and Compact Impact aid

WASHINGTON, D.C. —On Tuesday, Feb. 24, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and White House Intergovernmental Affairs Director Jerry Abramson will co-host the 2015 Senior Plenary Session of the Interagency Group on Insular Areas to discuss issues of critical importance to leaders of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The event will be livestreamed at www.doi.gov/live.

Jewell and Abramson will give opening remarks at 8:30am EST. Assistant Secretary Esther Kia'aina, partnering with various federal and territorial officials, will lead panel discussions on climate change, workforce development, tourism and financial assistance under the Compacts of Free Association.

This is the sixth meeting of the IGIA since President Obama reestablished the group in 2010 under Executive Order 13537, to address policies for the U.S. insular territories. Among its duties, the IGIA solicits information from the island governors and other elected officials, develops recommendations to address issues of concern, and advises the President on establishing, modifying and implementing federal policies that advance the social, economic and political development of the islands. The IGIA is co-chaired by the Secretary of the Interior and the White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs. ***(DOI)***

March hearing on proposed marijuana bill eyed

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) is hoping to set a public hearing this March on a bill seeking to legalize the medicinal use of marijuana.

In an earlier meeting, Igisomar was set to ask the joint Senate and House committees on Health and Education for a public hearing on Senate Bill 19-06, but decided to call it off to allow him more time to study the proposed bill and gather more information.

"My time frame is to have the hearings by March," Igisomar said, adding that if the House committee chair and members accept a draft version, he plans to request for two hearings on Rota, three to four on Saipan, and one on Tinian.

Igisomar said he has been receiving "a lot of positive feedback from the public" on the medicinal use of marijuana from residents seeking for an alternative approach to costly medical treatments, particularly residents suffering from debilitating diseases.

He said cancer patients often ask for the availability of alternative treatments that are not as expensive as chemotherapy.

However, Igisomar said lawmakers cannot "rush" the proposed legislation of marijuana, as there are other considerations to be looked into. Igisomar said he is in the process of collating data on marijuana prescription, medical uses, existing regulations, etc., before he will seek a public hearing.

The lawmaker said concerns and questions such who is the producer, who is the cultivator, who is the distributor, who is going to prescribe the medicine, among others, will still need to be answered.

For Sen. Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan), the potential use of medicinal marijuana for terminal cancer patients "warrants us to have an open mind."

He said Guam has passed it, but is still working on regulations. "We don't want to have unforeseen circumstances," he said, adding that there will also be a need to "consult with health professionals, and community members regarding the issue."

THOMAS A. MANGLONA

Mt. Carmel Cathedral parishioners view the International Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima. The statue is on its second visit to the island.

CK Diocese welcomes pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

For 68 years the statue of Our Lady of Fatima has traveled the world, bringing with it hope for our salvation and a stronger sense of camaraderie among parishioners. The Diocese of Chalan Kanoa welcomed the return of the historic International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima on its second visits to the island last week.

Hundreds filled the Mt. Carmel Cathedral last Sunday for the welcoming Mass, according to overall coordinator Sr. Emma Lusterio.

"It was such a blessing to see one of the instruments that brings people closer to God," she said. "The bond of parishioners, from different groups and ministries, and their faith was strengthened by the visit of Our Lady of Fatima."

The international pilgrim statue also visited Kristo Rai Parish, San Jose Parish, San Roque Parish, San Antonio Parish, the Commonwealth Health Center's Chapel, and Maturana House of Prayer.

San Roque Church coordinator Del Babauta said people's spirits were lifted when the statue visited her parish.

"We really felt the spirit when the statue entered the church. It is important that the visit was made because she is the mother of Jesus and Jesus and Mary go hand-in-hand," she added. "It is very important to know about that and understand her message."

Our Lady of Fatima's visit concluded with a rosary and Mass on Ash Wednesday at Mount Carmel Cathedral. Mount Carmel School students, faculty, and staff paid their respects to the statue and participated in the liturgical celebration.

The statue's escort, Patrick Sabat, has accompanied Our Lady of Fatima for nearly a decade. In his address to Mount Carmel Students, Sabat told the youth that the statue is a "reminder that we need to pray, because she wants us to always be in communion with God."

"She brings a message of prayer, hope and peace.This is the reason why we are still traveling the world. She reminds us that God will never fail us. I believe that I am not her escort, but that she is my escort to God."

The Our Lady of Fatima pilgrim statue last graced local churches with her presence in 2011.

In the presence of over 100,000 pilgrims, in October 1947, Bishop Leiria blessed the statue at Fatima, Portugal. To this date, the statue has visited more than 100 countries, including Russia and China.

Rosa Omar Tanin Castro, 84

This is to announce the passing of Rosa Omar Tanin Castro, who was born on Feb. 17, 1931, and died on Feb. 18, 2015. She is survived by her children Josepha, Marcelina, Regina, and Patrick, in-laws, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, relatives, and friends.

Mass Of Intentions is being celebrated at Nuestra Senora Bithen De los Remedios Church in Tanapag (Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, & Sunday) at 6pm and at San Roque Church (Tuesday and Thursday) at 6pm. Holy Rosary is at 7pm at Nuestra Senora Bithen De los Remedios Church, Tanapag.

On Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 3pm her remains will be escorted from the CHC morgue to Tanapag for wake services. On Thursday, Feb. 26, at 8:30am her remains will be escorted from her residence to Nuestra Senora De los Remedios Church, Tanapag for public viewing. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11am, followed by Christian burial at Tanapag Public Cemetery. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 5th birthday to Elkee Fumiku Babauta who is celebrating her special day today. We love you, take care and God bless. Greetings coming out from Mommy Janet Padernal, Daddy Rick Babauta, Grandma Mamita, Tito Momon, and Ninag Yolly.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859 • Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff vs. JOSE T. PANGELINAN, Defendant.	**Civil Action No. 13-0103 ORDER APPROVING JUDICIAL SALE OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY**

This matter came before this Court on February 10, 2015, for a hearing on Plaintiff's Motion for an Order of Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property ("Motion"). Robert T. Torres, Esq., appeared on behalf of Plaintiff Bank of Guam. Defendant Jose T. Pangelinan failed to appear. The Court found that the Defendant was properly served with Plaintiff's Motion and the Notice of Hearing on the Motion through publication in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Based on the documents presented, the records of this matter and the Court being fully advised of the premises, Plaintiff's Motion is **HEREBY GRANTED** and **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

1. That the mortgaged property to wit: Tract 20472-5, (part of original Tract 20472, AH506), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2064/82 the original of which was registered 26 MAR 82 as Document No. 14154 at Land Registry, Saipan, shall be sold to satisfy the foreclosure judgment entered by this Court.

2. That Plaintiff's counsel Robert T. Torres, Esq., or his designee, is hereby appointed as Auctioneer, pursuant to 2 CMC § 4537, with the authority to sell the mortgaged property in a public auction at a reasonable date and time to be determined by Mr. Torres.

3. That the public auction shall be held at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, which is hereby designated as the place of sale.

4. In addition to the notice requirements of 7 CMC § 4204(b), that the publication of the Notice of Auction and Judicial Sale of the mortgaged property announcing the date and time of the public auction, the location of the public auction, and other reasonable terms of the auction, shall be made in at least two local newspapers of general circulation once a week for four (4) successive weeks or 30 days before the date of the public auction.

5. That the public auction shall be conducted in accordance with the following terms, which shall be included in the Notice of Sale to be published:

a. The auction shall be open to the general public.
b. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
c. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer/seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
i) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
ii) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
iii) to reject any and all bids.
d. That tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
e. That a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.
f. Auctioneer/Seller and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
g. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

6. Defendant retains the right to cure the default under 2 CMC § 4536(a) and may at any time prior to the fixed maturity date, pay the entire amount then due under the terms of the mortgage including accrued interest and reasonable attorney's fees incurred.

7. Defendant shall allow Bank of Guam's appraiser access to the interior and exterior of the property for inspection.

SO ORDERED this _ day of February, 2015.

/s / Kenneth L. Govendo, Associate Judge

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Facsmile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff:

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM Plaintiff, vs. JUAN P. SAN NICOLAS and JOANN M. SAN NICOLAS, Defendants.	Civil Action No. 13-0178 (R) NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 30th day of May , 2014, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **11th day of March, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.**, at the Bank of Guam, District II, Songsong Village, Rota, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 345 R 172 located in Sinapalo, Rota, containing an area of 1,057 square meters, more or less as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 345 R 04 dated December 19, 1983, on file in said office.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c) to reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Bank of Guam.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 4th day of February 2015.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D' TORRES BUILDING. GARAPAN
P.O. Box 504340
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 235-8060 Fax: 235-8070

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, Plaintiff, v. DR. SC RUDOLF W. LEIS, Defendant.	CIVIL ACTION NO.: 14-0146 **AMENDED SUMMONS (For Publication)**

TO : DR. SC RUDOLF W. LEIS

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which shall be provided upon request to Plaintiff's counsel, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Second Floor, D'Torres Building, Garapan, P. O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the above Court:
DATED January 29, 2015

CLERK OF COURT

Fourth Publication

Tighter enforcement of law versus smoking in the works

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Division of Public Health will start enforcing Public Law 16-46 or the Smoke-Free Air Act of 2008, expanding access to smoke-free environments.

DPH officials, however, assured that they will help businesses conduct compliance training first before imposing the law full time.

The Smoke-Free Air Act of 2008 outlaws smoking in government facilities, schools, and places of employment and public places—a development that was hailed by health advocates, non-smokers, and even smokers who want to quit.

This meant that any person in the vicinity of a government area would have to smoke 25 feet away from the doorway of the building. It also banned smoking in public places including libraries, museums, banks, Laundromats, hotels, motels, public and private educational facilities, elevators, movie houses, health care facilities, and child care and adult care facilities.

The law extends to polling places, buses and taxicabs, restaurants including attached bars, restrooms, lobbies, reception areas, hallways and other common-use areas, supermarkets, retail food outlets, department stores, retail stores, service lines, shopping malls, and sports arenas.

Also falling under public places where smoking is banned are lobbies, hallways, and other common areas in apartment buildings, condominiums, retirement facilities, nursing homes, and other multiple-unit residential facilities.

DPH action

DPH has taken it upon itself to fully have a smoke-free environment, not only in public areas but business establishments as well.

Utilizing a small sub-award from the University of Hawaii USAPI REACH grant, the Non-Communicable Disease Bureau of the Division of Public Health will begin educating businesses on complying with PL 16-46.

In December, the University of Hawaii, in partnership with the NCD Bureau, hired a part-time local project assistant or LPA, Kaitlyn Neises, to fulfill project goals of increasing access to smoke-free environments and healthy food options for 75 percent of the CNMI adult population by 2017.

"Drastically improving compliance with PL 16-46 is crucial to reaching our goal. We're developing an educational toolkit and will offer free compliance training to businesses before full enforcement is in place and fines are issued. This year, we are focusing on helping bars, poker rooms, and hotel establishments become compliant with the Smoke-Free Air Act," Neises said.

"Non-compliance with the smoke-free law is a great concern for the community and impedes the Division of Public Health's mission to achieve optimal health and wellbeing for the people of the CNMI," said Margarita Aldan, director of Public Health Services. "Increasing access to smoke-free air is a priority."

In January this year, Neises, along with Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services' Stanley Santos, surveyed bars, poker rooms, and hotels.

Neises said most of the businesses they surveyed were confused about the smoke-free law and assume that because they have never been fined, they are in compliance.

"There is also a feeling of frustration from private businesses over the lack of education on the law. Overall, businesses surveyed are eager to become compliant with the law, but are unsure of what that means," Neises said.

Community thoughts

Several non-smokers think what DPH is doing is good for the health of the community. Several say that bars are sometimes the worst, with establishments allowing smokers to fill the room with smoke.

"That's dangerous. Sometimes you'd get a headache. There is no ventilation system in most bars here and having people smoking inside sometimes hurts those inside. It's about time this is going to happen," one told *Saipan Tribune*.

Another said that smoking in public places and getting fined for that is not the smart way to stop people from smoking, saying that if laws like these keep getting created, taking freedom away from them will continue.

Under the law, violators face a fine of up to $200 and completion of a mandatory tobacco prevention and/or cessation course, while owners of places where the violation occurs face a fine of up to $500 and revocation of the business license.

"Educating and empowering private citizens to report violations to a hotline will become an important part of enforcement but it won't be enough that violations are reported; clear procedures for follow-up must be created to give residents confidence that their concerns are heard," Neises said.

"Public education will also be an important component of the enforcement effort. Advertisements and educational material targeting CNMI residents will echo the purpose of the Smoke-Free Air Act: 'to guarantee the right of nonsmokers to breathe smoke-free air, and to recognize that the need to breathe smoke-free air shall have priority over the desire to smoke,'" she added.

The REACH grant awarded Public Health NCD Bureau $10,000 for the Healthy Restaurant Project and another $10,000 toward education and enforcement efforts of the Smoke-Free Air Act of 2008.

Business owners and individuals interested in learning more about this effort are encouraged to sign-up for email updates at reachcnmi.wix.com/reach or email LPA Kaitlyn Neises at kneisesm@hawaii.edu.

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500135, Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled a Special Meeting on Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at the Governor's Conference room located in the first floor of the Juan A. Sablan Building on Capitol Hill, Saipan.

The following is the proposed agenda:

I. **Call to Order**

II. **Roll Call/Determination of Quorum**

III. **Public Comment**

IV. **Adoption of Agenda**

V. **New Business:**

A. Commonwealth Lottery Commission's decision on the proposed amendment to the Casino License Agreement to authorize the operation of a temporary live gaming training location and facility.

VI. **Executive Session**

VII. **Adjournment**

Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Commonwealth Casino Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. For further information, please contact the Commonwealth Casino Commission at commonwealthcasinocommission@gmail.com.

/s/ JUAN M. SABLAN
Chairman

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
NMHC RFP 2015-002
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

"ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING DESIGN OF THE OLEAI SPORTS COMPLEX TRACK AND FIELD RENOVATION DRAWINGS"

The Acting Chairman of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("NMHC"), a subsidiary public corporation of the Commonwealth Development Authority ("CDA"), a public corporation of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, is soliciting sealed proposals for the DESIGN OF THE OLEAI SPORTS COMPLEX TRACK AND FIELD RENOVATION DRAWINGS.

Proposal packets will be available on Tuesday, February 17, 2015, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI Holidays.

A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled on Tuesday, March 03, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's Office Conference Room. Any Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 or fax to (670) 234-9021, no later than Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

One (1) original and three (3) copies of the proposal shall be submitted in a sealed enveloped marked/stamped "Confidential" and labeled **"NMHC RFP 2015-002"**, to the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 a.m., Friday, March 13, 2015.**

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its respective program Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to NMHC, which functions as the Public Housing Authority (PHA) for the Commonwealth.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/Tom Glenn Quitugua
Acting Chairman
Board of Directors
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director
Procurement and Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

AMENDED NOTICE

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2015

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated $1,240,460.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of $868,915.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); $309,294.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, $62,251.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2015.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning January 06, 2015.

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by Monday, April 06, 2015, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after April 06, 2015, will not be accepted.

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows: February 18, 2015, 5:00 p.m. & February 25, 2015, 5:00 p.m.

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in Songsong Village.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planning Assistant at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Mideast nations key to stopping terror act

If the goal of the "braintrust" of the rogue jihadists calling themselves the Islamic State is to alienate and outrage most of the world's governments through repeated gruesome acts of terror, it's working.

The actions are drawing in more and more countries that have wanted to stay on the periphery of the fight. Egypt entered the fray on Monday with a dawn raid by fighter jets on Islamic State training camps and weapons stocks in neighboring Libya. It marks the first Egyptian military intervention since the 1990 gulf war and was prompted by the horrific mass beheadings of 21 Egyptian Christians, which was broadcast over the Internet.

The Egyptian raid also highlights the lack of consensus of opposing forces on how to deal with the Islamic State. Egypt, which has received billions in aid from the United States, didn't bother to inform its longtime ally before launching the attack. President Barack Obama has favored a political solution to the situation in Libya.

It's imperative that the Middle East nations opposing the group work with the United States to reach consensus on how to stop its growing threat.

A statement released by Egypt's military said, "(we) must take revenge for the Egyptian blood that was shed."

Egypt shares 700 miles of border with Libya, which increases the sense of urgency for the Egyptian military.

In a nationally televised speech Sunday, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi called the beheadings an "abhorrent act of terrorism" and said Egypt reserved the right to respond. He also banned all Egyptians from entering Libya.

Libya's air force confirmed it launched coordinated strikes with Egypt, claiming to have killed more than 60 militants and saying the strikes would continue.

Just weeks ago the Islamic State goaded Jordan into similar air attacks after releasing a video of a captured Jordanian pilot being burned to death. Since that ghastly event, Jordan's military has been a full participant in air strikes against Islamic State positions. The pilot's death also has managed to greatly solidify public sentiment in Jordan behind the notion of stopping the group.

No one should think that there are easy answers to stopping the Islamic State and its campaign of terror.

There aren't.

This is a complex regional fight that has centuries-old underpinnings. But one key element is for nations such as Egypt, Jordan, Libya and Saudi Arabia to recognize that it is in their own interest to work together and with the United States to stop this bloody scourge from spreading any further.

(c)2015 San Jose Mercury News (San Jose, Calif.)

Obama set the immigration trap, and the GOP walked in

By TAMAR JACOBY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

On Monday, a federal judge in Texas blocked President Obama's latest executive actions on immigration. This is a short-term win for Republicans, who rightly believe the president lacked the authority to act unilaterally. But it does nothing to change the underlying political dynamic—Republicans have won a battle, but they're still at risk of losing the immigration war.

The contrast between Democrats and Republicans is stark and getting starker every day. A Democratic president is fighting to shield unauthorized immigrants from deportation. If it weren't for the court order, an additional 600,000 Dreamers who came to the U.S. illegally as children could have applied for legal status starting Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Republicans in Congress are headed into their sixth week trying to pass a measure that would pave the way for deporting not just the Dreamers, but all 11 million immigrants living illegally in the United States.

It's a contrast sure to haunt the GOP through November 2016 and beyond.

The irony, particularly bitter for Republicans, is that it's not an accurate picture of the party. Most GOP representatives in Congress support relief for Dreamers, and many, perhaps most, support legal status for unauthorized immigrants.

But congressional Republicans are caught in a trap. They're fighting for a policy most of them don't believe in as a way, they think, to strike back at the president—but in the end are hurting themselves more than they could ever hurt Obama.

Ten years ago, when the GOP-controlled House of Representatives passed a draconian immigration enforcement bill named for Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.), most Republican lawmakers supported its provisions criminalizing immigrants and opening the door to mass deportations.

But the GOP has undergone a sea change since 2005: a slow, steady, bottom-up rethinking of the immigration issue. Today, not just national figures like Jeb Bush but most rank-and-file Republicans in Congress understand the need for far-reaching immigration reform. Last June, when reform advocates conducted an informal whip count, they found more than half of House Republicans prepared to vote for a path to legal status for some unauthorized immigrants.

So how did Republicans get trapped? Obama set the snare, but the GOP walked in of its own free will.

Obama surely knew that the immigration executive orders he issued in November would infuriate Republicans. He could have sent the same proposal up to Capitol Hill as a bill: legal status rather than citizenship for some but not all of those here illegally. It might just have passed if it had come up for a vote last year.

But that would have taken immigration off the table as a wedge issue, leveling the playing field between Republicans and Democrats. So instead, the president acted unilaterally, knowing the GOP would see that as a brazen abuse of authority—a violation the party had to fight, no matter what the consequences.

Republicans are right, as the Texas ruling confirms. But being right isn't always enough in politics—you also have to win the war of perceptions. And right now, the GOP is losing that war—big time. Americans aren't hearing the message about the president's abuse of authority. They're hearing the GOP say it hates immigrants.

What can Republicans do? How do they get out of the trap?

Turn the tables on Obama. Come together as a party and pass some constructive immigration measures, then send those bills to the president and let him look like the obstacle to progress.

This wouldn't have to be comprehensive immigration reform. It wouldn't even have to include legal status for unauthorized immigrants. A few small steps to fix the legal immigration system would signal that Republicans know there's a problem and want to be part of solving it—that they recognize the benefits immigrants bring, especially legal immigrants.

An ideal package would start with enforcement, on the border and in the workplace. But it would also include some answers for what's broken. Among the possibilities: streamlined visas for skilled professionals, some relief for produce growers who rely on migrant workers, and something to address the needs of employers in other sectors who depend on less-skilled immigrants to keep their businesses open and growing—perhaps a small temporary-worker program for cities and counties whose economies have bounced back to full employment.

The president would mock all these measures if they landed on his desk alone, without some form of legalization for unauthorized immigrants. But if he vetoed the bill, he'd be the problem—Democrats rather than Republicans would be the Party of No.

Of course, some conservatives on talk radio and elsewhere would also mock a change of course by Republicans—to them, any effort to get out of the trap would betray a lack of resolve. But when the course the party is on isn't working, sticking to it is just foolish, not brave or principled.

Republicans don't need to stand down. What they need to do is fight smarter. The good news: There's a better way to beat the president and vote for what you believe on immigration—to do the right thing and get credit for it from voters looking for lawmakers who can come through with solutions.

Tamar Jacoby, a registered Republican, is president of ImmigrationWorks USA, a national federation of small-business owners in favor of immigration reform. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Breaking the rules

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Haidee V. Eugenio covered politics, mmigration, environment, business and other news beats as a reporter for Saipan Tribune *and other news media in the CNMI for 16 years.*

When one hears the phrase "CNMI lawmakers as lawbreakers," some of the immediate images that come to mind include those that were jailed for illegal drug possession, illegal catching and smuggling of endangered or protected species, and those that hired so-called "ghost" employees.

Any lawmaker's fall from grace could also be avoided if the House of Representatives and the Senate enforce their own "Rules of Procedures," or so-called house rules.

We're not just talking about violations of the code of official conduct which is part of the house rules: falling asleep in their seat, shopping online or checking their Facebook during legislative sessions, purportedly going to the restroom every time a vote on a controversial bill becomes imminent, showing up at sessions unprepared, wearing improper attire, or unexplained absences from committee meetings.

Lawmakers' own house rules require them to conduct themselves at all times "in a manner which shall reflect creditably" on the House of Representatives or Senate.

The House and Senate may suspend or expel a member by a three-fourths vote of each house's total membership simply for violating the Official Rules of Procedures, along with commission of treason, a felony, or breach of the peace.

Past legislatures either turned a blind eye to their members' rule violations or were simply ignorant of their own House or Senate rules. As the saying goes, those who do not learn from the past are doomed to repeat it.

Right now, an Ad Hoc Committee on Rules chaired by floor leader George Camacho (R-Saipan) is reviewing a resolution to adopt the "Official Rules of Procedure for the House of Representatives" and is expected to make its recommendation to the full body. This is an opportune time not only for the committee but also every lawmaker and the general public to take a close look at House Resolution 19-5 and offer suggestions.

Remember those times in 2013 and 2014 when even lawmakers didn't know where some of their colleagues went? It turned out those lawmakers went on trips to Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, and Manila to meet with individuals involved in casino operations. A few months later, a bill allowing an "exclusive" casino on Saipan passed both the House and Senate without public hearings.

While those lawmakers notified the House and Senate leadership prior to their trip that they will be off-island on "official business" on certain days, there was no mention of where they were going, for what purpose, who were they going to meet, or who would be paying for their trip. They didn't follow their existing house rules and nobody compelled them to do so.

Members who travel on official legislative business are supposed to submit a written or oral report to the House during the next regular session after their return. That required report, according to the house rules, "shall summarize the official business activities undertaken during the trip. If no report is submitted, the cost of travel shall be deducted from the member's salary."

No such official reporting happened. If there ever was, it wasn't disclosed to the public. It also remains uncertain whether anyone requested the Office of the Public Auditor to audit or investigate those trips.

That's why to this date, there are still doubts and suspicions of corruption or at least conflict of interest involving those lawmakers who made the "casino" trips, including now Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres, now Senate President Victor Hocog (R-Rota), casino bill author and now vice speaker Ralph Demapan, and others.

The public has the right to know where their elected leaders go when they claim to be on business trip and officially representing the CNMI abroad. In reviewing H.R. 19-5, the 19th Legislature should put more teeth in their house rules in the area of attendance and travel, among other things, by requiring that all "official business" travel notifications must include the specific places they're headed to, the meeting dates, the specific reason for the meeting (for example, to meet with casino businesses or geothermal energy exploration fact-finding mission), the specific individuals they're meeting with and their affiliations, and the entity that will pay for their trip, accommodation and other expenses.

Year after year, the House rules require committees to submit a written report to the speaker "within 60 days" from the date a bill was referred to them. This is also not followed most of the time.

Certain committees were also known as black holes for referred bills in past legislatures.

And chances are, you have come across a bill with a title that only indicates amending sections of the Commonwealth Code without specifying what it's all about. The house rules require that the title of all bills and resolutions introduced or pre-filed "shall be clearly written to express the intent and purpose of the measure."

The house rules state that the mere or sole act of stating or identifying the existing section of the Commonwealth Code to be amended is "prohibited." Except for commemorative resolutions, "no bill or resolution that has not been offered for public comment shall be finally passed." That's also in the rules.

There's no such thing as voting "yes with reservation" or "no with reservation." It's only a "yes" or "no" vote. Or "abstain." And upon the second call of the roll, a member may vote "present."

Some would also use a language other than the prescribed English, Chamorro or Carolinian when voting. The list goes on.

The 19th House can also do more to compel lawmakers to undergo drug testing in the wake of drug cases involving sitting lawmakers during previous legislatures.

Even HR 19-5 that is under review does not require mandatory drug testing among members of the 19th House of Representatives. Only "employees" of the House remain subject to the Drug-Free Workplace Policy.

Efforts to make it mandatory for lawmakers to undergo drug testing have failed, even as every legislature would have one or two sitting members figuring out in drug-related cases.

But just like having good CNMI laws that remain useless because they are not enforced, what difference does it make to have more stringent official rules of procedure when lawmakers disregard them or nobody compels them to do so?

Bibi, Boehner playing games

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

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Bibi Netanyahu wants to make sure President Barack Obama doesn't ink a nuclear deal with Tehran. Any nuclear deal.

In an effort to prevent such a deal, the Israeli prime minister (known at home as "Bibi," not Benjamin) has used unprecedented means to do an end run around the White House. His ambassador to Washington (and right-hand man), Ron Dermer, schemed with Republican House Speaker John Boehner to have Netanyahu address a joint session of Congress—on March 3—without first informing the White House. That stunning breach of protocol still has Washington buzzing.

The Dermer-Boehner end run is shameful on four counts. It insults the office of the U.S. presidency. It inserts Bibi into partisan U.S. politics (he becomes a tool for Boehner to thwack Obama) and inserts the Republicans into Israeli politics (the speech comes just two weeks before the March 17 Israeli elections, giving Netanyahu a chance to grandstand).

And it could undercut the security interests of the United States.

"The way Netanyahu did it, hiding the whole initiative from the White House, conducting it as a kind of plot between the (Israeli) embassy and Capitol Hill was a great blunder," says Nahum Barnea, one of Israel's top political columnists. "Even Fox News said the insult to the presidency was too much for them."

Israel prides itself on the bipartisan support it receives in Congress. And despite the famously tense relationship between Netanyahu and Obama, the president has twisted himself into a pretzel providing military and diplomatic support for Israel, often casting vetoes at the United Nations as the lone vote against resolutions Israel opposes.

So why would Bibi publicly align himself with the Republican Party against a president whom Israel must deal with for two more years? What is going on?

No doubt, Boehner's invite offered Bibi a great photo op right before elections. "The prime minister is trying to show (the Israeli public) he holds the key to relations with the United States," Barnea said, in a conference call organized by the Israel Policy Forum. "In a joint session, with applause every four minutes, hugging and kissing, this shows the Israeli public their prime minister is the most popular figure in the United States."

But Netanyahu's real reason for taking this risk runs deeper, says Barnea. The Israeli leader looks at the speech as an ideal forum to promote his campaign against Iran.

"For Netanyahu, the issue of the nuclearization of Iran is almost an obsession," says the Israeli columnist. The diplomatic norms of conducting business with the United States were overshadowed "by Netanyahu's frustration that he can't dictate to the United States the endgame he wishes would happen" in negotiations over Iran's nuclear program.

"He would like the United States to force Iran to abandon its nuclear project and he knows it won't happen," says Barnea. "President Obama has a different policy. He believes he should negotiate. The U.S. public is not looking for another war in the Middle East."

So here we come to the heart of the matter: the different perspectives between Israel and the United States on how to deal with Iran.

Netanyahu believes that Iran is an existential security threat to Israel and its suspect nuclear program must be entirely eliminated. If that were possible, it would be a good thing. But unfortunately, the prospects for such a draconian accord had already vanished by the time George W. Bush left office. No Iranian government will sign it.

So the Obama administration seeks an agreement that will require Iran to substantially reduce its program and stocks of low-enriched uranium, and provide for very intrusive inspections. The goal: to ensure it would take Iran at least one year to produce enough nuclear material for a single weapon, should it decide to cheat.

We will know shortly whether such a deal is possible. The odds at best are 50-50. The deadline for ongoing talks is in June, and a framework accord is supposed to be signed by March 24.

But Netanyahu has long made clear he'd prefer to see a U.S. military strike on Iran's nuclear facilities. (Most analysts, including Barnea, doubt Israel would attack Iran alone.) Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates tellingly recounts in his memoir, "Duty," how Bibi told him a strike on Iran's nuclear facilities would likely trigger the regime's overthrow—and that Iranian retaliation after a strike would probably be pro forma.

Gates recounts that he strongly disagreed on both counts, telling Bibi that a strike would rally Iranians behind the regime, and an attack was more likely to spark a war in the region. I agree.

So from the U.S. perspective, these negotiations are vital. Obviously, a deal should not give away the store, and sanctions can't be removed quickly. The gaps between the two sides may prove impossible to close, but the effort must be made. Netanyahu, on the other hand, wanted Congress to undercut any possible deal before it was drafted—by passing new sanctions at a critical time in the talks. No doubt he would have urged such action on Feb. 11—the initial date Boehner invited him to speak.

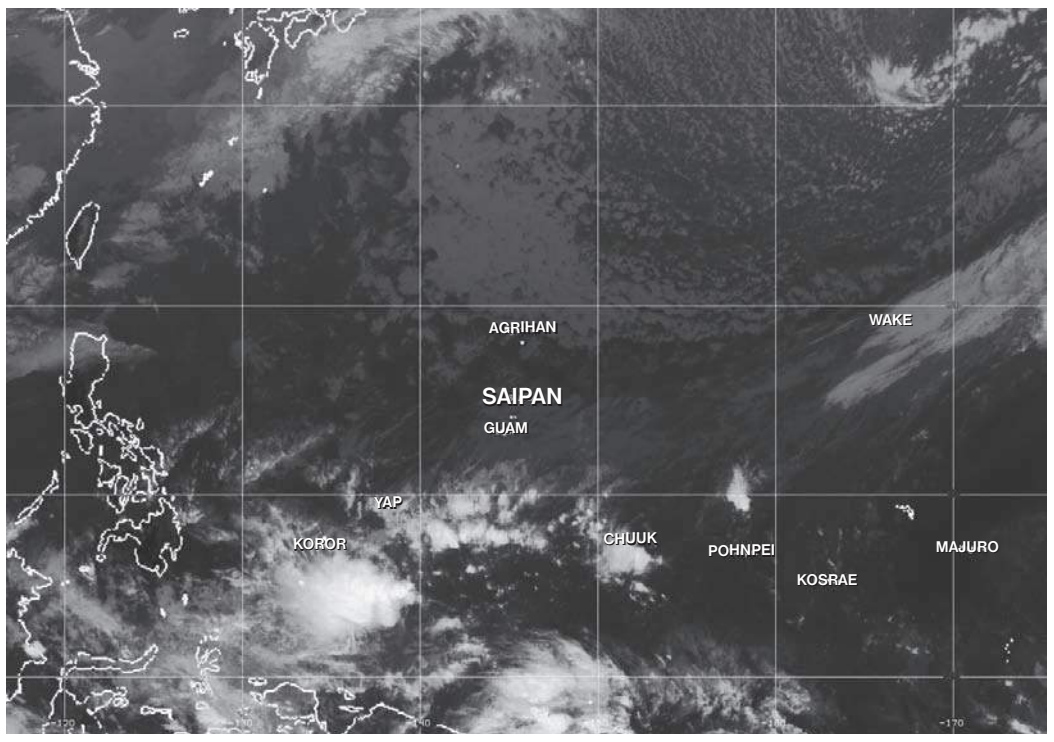
The brouhaha over his invitation led that date to be pushed back to March 3, and any congressional vote pushed back until after the March 24 deadline. But, unless Boehner is ready to endorse a new Mideast war, he should cease playing partisan politics with a subject as important as the Iran talks. Netanyahu's address to Congress should be postponed until after Israeli elections, and the negotiations given a last chance to work.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly sunny with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough curves eastward from 1N130E through a weak circulation centered south of Yap near 3N138E to end at EQ145E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located south of Koror and Yap or south of a line from 6N130E to 6N135E to 3N143E to EQ145E to 1N152E. Trade winds converging north of the trough are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of the Marianas within 75 miles of a line from 8N140E to 6N153E. A cold front extends southwestward from 25N175E to 14N166E then continues as a shear line to end south of Yap at 6N138E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are present along and up to 400 miles northwest of this boundary.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲82	▼74
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼79

Around the Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲75	▼61
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲49	▼26
Hong Kong	Showers	▲71	▼64
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼70
London	Showers	▲46	▼41
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼48
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼72
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼59
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼66
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲21	▼ 7
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼38
Paris	Showers	▲46	▼34
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲53	▼33
Rome	Rain	▲56	▼47
Salem	Sunny	▲58	▼32
San Francisco	Sunny	▲65	▼49
Seoul	Sunny	▲45	▼30
Tokyo	Showers	▲53	▼34
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲26	▼11

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:48 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
10:48 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
5:34 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
11:32 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:38 AM	6:24 PM
Tuesday	6:38 AM	6:24 PM
Wednesday	6:37 AM	6:24 PM
Thursday	6:37 AM	6:24 PM
Friday	6:36 AM	6:25 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:50 AM	10:40PM
Tuesday	10:39 AM	11:37 PM
Wednesday	11:29 AM	
Thursday	12:19 PM	12:32 AM
Friday	1:10 PM	1:25 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daiily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-15-011

AGINGAN WWTP TRANSFORMER REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of Agingan WWTP transformer in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general of removal of existing transformer, installation and connection of new three-phase pad-mounted compartmental transformer with accessories and components to riser pole, installation of bollards and other related work. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **210 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Project is funded by a grant from the United Stated of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project in contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of $200.00 for one IFB package set

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **February 18, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-15-011, Agingan WWTP Transformer Replacement Project"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 12, 2015,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 20, 2015** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Manager, Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Birhen Martinez, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address birhen.martinez@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP15-GOV-037

Construction Management/Contract Compliance For Water Task Force Projects

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, through the CNMI Water Task Force (WTF), are soliciting sealed Proposals from qualified Consultants to provide Construction Management/Contract Compliance Services for various WTF contracts and projects.

The project Scope of Work will be available on or after **February 16, 2015** at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan.

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, **February 27, 2015** to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number (670) 664-2279.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of project approval from OIA.

The proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-305. Preference per Public Law 15-95 as further amended by Public Law 15-118 is not available in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "**Construction Management/Contract Compliance", RFP15-GOV-037.** One (1) original and four (4) copies must be submitted. Sealed proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply, at Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **3:00 p.m., March 18, 2015 (CNMI local time)**.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI. All proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

ELOY S. INOS
Governor

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-15-007

CUC POWER PLANT BUILDING LOWER ROOF REPLACEMENT AT CUC POWER PLANT NO.1, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced construction firms for CUC Power Plant Building Lower Roof Replacement at CUC Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Contractor shall provide and pay for all the labor, materials, tools, equipment, transportation , temporary construction of every nature and all other services and facilities necessary to execute, complete and deliver the work within the specified time frame.

A mandatory pre-proposal site visit is scheduled for **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 17, 2015** at the CUC Power Plant Administration Building in Lower Base, Saipan. All potential proposers are required to attend, to familiarize themselves with the site conditions.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by **February, 20, 2015, 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** to be considered.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP -15- 007 CUC Power Plant Building Lower Roof Replacement at CUC Power Plant No.1" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than March 11, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**.

The Proposer is required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – https://marianaslabor.net/.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to CUC. The proposal bond shall be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The payment and performance bond shall be executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the Commonwealth or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract. The bond shall be in an amount equal to one hundred percent of the price specified in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 24, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, Power Plant Manager via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
WATER TASK FORCE
IFB15-GOV-040

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, through the CNMI Water Task Force, is soliciting sealed bids for the Lower Base Water Distribution System Improvement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), US Department of Commerce and CIP-CDA (PL 17-90). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from EDA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Construction of approximately 2,290 LF of 12-inch PVC, 9,560 LF of 8-inch PVC, and 2,540 LF of 6" PVC waterlines, fire hydrants, air relief valves, flush hydrants, blow-off valves, fittings and appurtenances.
- Install new service laterals and connect to existing water meter locations.
- Install gate valves, fittings, and connections to existing water mains at various locations.
- Abandon in-place of old PVC pipe.
- Restore disturbed asphalt paving and concrete pavements.
- Pressure testing and chlorination of new waterlines.
- Removal of temporary facilities and controls.
- Construction activity to not interrupt existing water service to the area.

A non-refundable payment of $500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after February 23, 2015 at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at 10:00 a.m., on March 6, 2015, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on March 5, 2015.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3-301. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked "IFB15-GOV-040". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 pm local time March 25, 2015. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 pm local time March 25, 2015, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than March 25, 2015, and must be received no later than April 6, 2015. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, April 7, 2015. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on March 25, 2015.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/Eloy S. Inos, Governor

/s/Herman S. Sablan, Director of Procurement & Supply

GMS students stand out in forensic competition

Green Meadow School officials and teachers/coaches pose with their winning students at the Regional Primary Grade Forensic Competition held at Kagman Elementary School on February 14, 2015.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to all participating students from Green Meadow School for performing extremely well in both semifinals and final rounds of the Regional Primary Grade Forensic Competition on Feb. 14, 2015, at Kagman Elementary School. GMS students from Kinder 5 to 5th grade competed in the event.

In the K-2 Division, final rounds' top honor in Duo Interpretation were won by K5 pupils Chedlen Rose Villanueva and Justin Mallari, while in the semifinals, K5 Shalei Terrie Camacho and K5 Carly Kate Dela Cruz placed first in Impromptu A and Reader's Forum A respectively. Gold honor in Impromptu B Semi was won by second grader Solana Arro Hunter. GMS K-2 Team was also triumphant by placing second in the final rounds of Duo, Reader's Forum, and Impromptu.

First place in the final round of Reader's Forum in the 3-5 Division was won by fifth grade Rownel Jody Coloma while the same top honor was awarded to Jill Anne Marie (fourth grade) for besting other contestants in Humorous Interpretation Final. GMS 3-5 Division Team also placed second in the final rounds of Dramatic Interpretation and Choral Speaking. They also posted second place in the semifinals for Reader's Forum A, Reader's Forum B, Duo A and Duo B. GMS K-5 and 3-5 Teams also registered major honors both in semi-final and final rounds.

Excellent job, Falcons! Keep up the good work and again, congratulations!

K-2 DIVISION

■ 1st Place, Duo Final: Chedlen Rose Villanueva, K5; Justin Mallari, K5

■ 1st Place, Impromptu A: Shalei Terrie K. Camacho, K5

■ 1st Place, Impromptu B: Solana Arro Hunter, 2nd Grade

■ 1st Place, Reader's Forum A: Carly Kate Dela Cruz, K5

■ 2nd Place, Duo Final: Gwen Denise Lagmay, 1st Grade; Lvinna Palma, 1st Grade

■ 2nd Place, Reader's Forum Final: Carly Kate Dela Cruz, K5

■ 2nd Place, Impromptu Final: Shalei Terrie K. Camacho, K5

■ 2nd Place, Impromptu A: Chealzka Navarro, 2nd Grade

■ 3rd Place, Dramatic Interpretation Final: Leonard Jake Regalado, 1st Grade

■ 3rd Place, Impromptu Final: Solana Arro Hunter, 2nd Grade

■ 3rd Place, Humorous Interpretation Final: Vimarie Alna Alfeche, Kr

■ 3rd Place, Reader's Forum B: Lord Angelo Cosmo, 1st Grade

■ 3rd Place, Impromptu A: Jasmyne Tolentino, 2nd Grade

■ 4th Place, Choral Speaking Final: 1st Grade Eric Ferrer, 1st Grade Leonard Jake Regalado,; 1st Grade Philsimon Gregorio

■ 4th Place, Impromptu Final: Chealzka Navarro, 2nd Grade

■ 4th Place, Humorous Interpretation: Tristan Yanto, K5

■ 4th Place, Impromptu A: Nichole Angeline Llaga, 2nd Grade

■ 4th Place, Reader's Forum B: Leidy Audry Agacoscos, 1st Grade

■ 5th Place, Reader's Forum Final: Lord Angelo Cosmo, 1st Grade

■ 5th Place, Humorous Interpretation Final: Justin Mallari, K5

3-5 DIVISION

■ 1st Place, Reader's Forum: Rownel Jody Coloma, 5th Grade

■ 1st Place, Humorous Interpretation Final: Jill Anne Marie Mallari, 4th Grade

■ 2nd Place, Dramatic Interpretation Final: Angeline Faith Cacdac, 4th Grade

■ 2nd Place, Coral Speaking Final: 4th Grade Christian Bert Daniel, 4th Grade Keith Gester Villasin, 4th Grade Christian Ted Pamintuan, 4th; Grade Lyndon Digno; 4th Grade Sean Genesis Garcia.

■ 2nd Place, Reader's Forum A: Raeka Shereen Lantin, 4th Grade

■ 2nd Place, Reader's Forum Semi B: Rownel Jody Coloma, 5th Grade

■ 2nd Place, Duo A: Ariel Legaspi, 3rd Grade; Kriselle Bryana Mitzy Drilon, 3rd Grade

■ 2nd Place, Duo B: Jazmyn Lopez, 4th Grade; Leunyce Regalado, 4th Grade

■ 3rd Place, Dramatic Interpretation Final: Ariel Legaspi, 3rd Grade

■ 3rd Place, Duo FinaCloe Ferlyn Lagmay, 4th Grade; Christian Ted Pamintuan, 4th Grade

■ 3rd Place, Duo A: Cloe Ferlyn Lagmay, 4th Grade; Christian Ted Pamintuan, 4th Grade

■ 3rd Place, Duo B: Rayven Daca, 5th Grade; Erin Ferrer, 5th Grade

■ 3rd Place, Reader's Forum A: Elijah Umali, 3rd Grade

■ 3rd Place, Reader's Forum Semi B: Raeka Shereen Lantin, 4th Grade

■ 3rd Place, Reader's Forum C: Jeremiah Alfred, 3rd Grade

■ 4th Place, Humorous Final: Keith Gester Villasin, 4th Grade

■ 4th Place, Choral Speaking: Angelee Faith Cacdac, Leunyce Regalado, Samantha Gabrielle Flores, Jazmyn Lopez; Raeka Shereen Lantin, all 4th Graders

■ 4th Place, Duo B: Lyndon Digno, 4th Grade; Sean Genesis Garcia, 4th Grade

■ 4th Place, Reader's Forum A: Arnel Josh Coloma, 3rd Grade

■ 5th Place, Dramatic Interpretation Final: Jill Anne Marie Mallari, 4th Grade

■ 5th Place, Duo Final: Rayven Daca, 5th Grade; Erin Ferrer, 5th Grade

■ 5th Place, Choral Speaking Final: Kristin Jewel Dela Cruz, Lorenz Espiritu, Elijah Umali; Arnel Josh Coloma, all 3rd graders.

■ 5th Place, Reader's Forum B: Rownel Jody Coloma, 3rd Grade

■ 5th Place, Duo A: Areeza;a, 3rd Grade; Nicole Sacramento 3rd Grade

■ 5th Place, Duo B: Kristin Jewel Dela Cruz, 3rd Grade; Liana Daca, 3rd Grade

Magazine presents donation to Red Cross Guam

guamBusiness
DATE FEB 12 2015
PAY TO THE ORDER OF GUAM CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS
$ 38,678.00
THIRTY EIGHT THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY EIGHT AND NO/100 DOLLARS
MEMO EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR

JOY WHITE

From left, Catherine D. Gayle, director of human resources, DFS Mid-Pacific Division Guam and Saipan, a sponsor of the event; Monica Duenas, general manager, Meskla, and secretary of the board, Guam Chapter of the American Red Cross; Norman T. Tenorio, managing director, Joeten Enterprises Inc., CEO, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc., and 2014 *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year; Chita A. Blaise, CEO, Guam Chapter of the American Red Cross; Marcos Fong, group executive vice president, Foremost Foods Inc./Coca-Cola Beverage (Guam) Co., Glimpses of Guam Inc., and Nakicos Corp. (Subway Guam), and chairman, Guam Chapter of the American Red Cross; Maureen N. Maratita, publisher, Glimpses Publications; Anna Gera Van Seters, area manager, fleet card and commercial fuels, South Pacific Petroleum Corp., and board member, Guam Chapter of the American Red Cross; and Annie San Nicolas, sales manager, Glimpses Publications.

Guam Business Magazine presented a donation of $38,768 to the Guam Chapter of the American Red Cross on Feb. 12 at the Hyatt Regency Guam. The 2014 Executive of the Year, Norman T. Tenorio, attended the check presentation.

Funds were raised through the *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year gala held on Jan. 17 at the Hyatt Regency Guam. This year's event drew approximately 400 people.

The event's sponsors were T Galleria by DFS, Delta Air Lines, Shimbros Inc., Hyatt Regency Guam, Quality Distributors, Coca-Cola Beverage Co., Foremost Foods Inc., and Sorensen Media Group. ***(PR)***

6 nations partner to accomplish Cope North

By MELISSA WHITE
36TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam—More than 300 military members from six different countries joined together to conduct the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief portion of Exercise Cope North 15 here and throughout the region of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on Feb. 15-18.

» For first time, Rota and Tinian used as part of exercise

"The Pacific theater and Pacific Command cover an enormous span of area, and every day we're encountering new issues," said U.S. Air Force Capt. Mark Nexon, CN15 HA/DR mission commander. "Natural disasters are very common—there's a lot of volcanic activity, there's earthquakes, and tsunamis, and typhoons that remain a threat throughout the region, so practicing our capabilities and improving our capacities, and not just the United States, but all our partners in the region...working together, we can cover more area together.

The U.S. Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard partnered with the Japan Air Self-Defense Force, Royal Australian Air Force, Republic of Korea Air Force, Royal New Zealand Air Force, and the Philippine Air Force to accomplish the training exercise. This marked the first time the RNZAF and PAF participated in Cope North to assist with the aeromedical evacuation portion of the HA/DR exercise. Members from the Singapore and Vietnam air forces also observed this portion for the first time.

The scenarios of the event varied to meet seven main objectives: Airfield assessment team insertion, deployment of contingency response airmen, expeditionary medical support, multinational aeromedical evacuations, substandard airfield operations, humanitarian assistance airdrops, search and rescue, and redeployment of the contingency response airmen.

This year's Cope North also marked a first where airmen deployed off Guam to the nearby islands of Tinian and Rota for the HA/DR exercise, versus the method of deploying troops to the local Northwest Field in Guam in the past. Rota was used as the hub location to support and provide relief to the spoke location of Tinian, which was fictitiously impacted by an earthquake and tsunami for the training scenario.

U.S. AIR FORCE/TECH. SGT. JASON ROBERTSON

Aeromedical personnel from the U.S. Air Force and Royal Australian Air Force transfer a simulated downed pilot from a U.S. Navy MH-60S Knighthawk during a multinational search and rescue exercise at Cope North 15, Feb. 18, 2015, at Anderson Air Force Base, Guam.

"The interoperability during this exercise was amazing," said Sharon Rohde, CN15 HA/DR lead planner. "Everyone was very well integrated, and this was a positive reflection of our ability to coordinate with other agencies who have been very accommodating and extremely helpful in supporting us, especially the local civilian airports in [the] CNMI."

U.S. AIR FORCE/TECH. SGT. JASON ROBERTSON

U.S. Navy Naval Aircrewman (AWS) (Helicopter) 3rd Class Ryan Fujii, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, is hoisted into an MH-60S Knighthawk with a simulated downed pilot during a multinational search and rescue exercise at Cope North 15, Feb. 18, 2015, off the coast of Guam.

U.S. AIR FORCE/TECH. SGT. JASON ROBERTSON

Simulated downed pilots shield themselves from the rotor wash of a U.S. Navy MH-60S Knighthawk during a multinational search and rescue exercise at Cope North 15, Feb. 18, 2015, off the coast of Guam.

To start off the exercise, members of the 36th Contingency Response Group from Andersen AFB and RAAF contingency response airmen deployed to Rota and also opened the airfield and accomplished substandard airfield operations on Tinian. There was also EMEDS established at Rota to aid exercise victims who were hypothetically transported from Tinian for medical care. When necessary, EMEDS members arranged some patients for aeromedical evacuation by multinational AE crews to be transported to a higher echelon of care.

"We observed how the U.S. and Australian aeromedical evacuation teams manage patients and set up the hospital," said Philippines Air Force Tech. Sgt. Wilfredo Uiado, aeromedical technician. "We learned a lot and it was great to be part of Cope North and to establish relationships with the other countries."

The four-day HA/DR scenario on Rota and Tinian mirrored the team's real-world capabilities of being able to maintain operations for five days in the event of a disaster until civilian agencies would be able to support the impacted area. During that time frame, the air forces demonstrated these capabilities by treating 70 patients, moving more than 216 passengers, transporting approximately 700,000 pounds of cargo, and conducting approximately 25 airdrops before concluding and redeploying back to Guam.

The exercise culminated with a joint, multinational search and rescue event off the coast of Guam on Feb. 18.

This year marks the 86th iteration of the Cope North multilateral training exercise which is a long-standing, multinational event designed to increase interoperability, improve combat readiness, and develop a synergistic disaster response capability between the countries involved. The second half of Cope North will shift the focus to air combat training which will include air-to-air and air-to-ground combat and a large force employment exercise.

U.S. AIR FORCE/TECH. SGT. JASON ROBERTSON

U.S. Air Force, Japan Air Self-Defense Force and Royal Australian Air Force aircraft fly in formation during a photo exercise at Cope North 15, Feb. 17, 2015, off the coast of Guam.

U.S. AIR FORCE/TECH. SGT. JASON ROBERTSON

A U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon from the 14th Fighter Squadron flies along the coastline of Guam before joining on an aircraft formation for a photo exercise at Cope North 15, Feb. 17, 2015.

Business

Some GOP governors back DHS showdown

WASHINGTON (AP)—Several Republican governors are urging GOP congressional leaders to stand firm next week in opposing legislation funding the Department of Homeland Security if it doesn't also overturn President Barack Obama's executive action on immigration.

Governors in both parties meeting in Washington this weekend warned of economic and security concerns should Congress fail to resolve its latest budget standoff. The agency's $40 billion budget runs out Feb. 27, giving federal lawmakers only a few days to reach an agreement once they return from recess next week.

Homeland Security funding "is very important to not only our nation, but to our individual states because of our military installations—especially at a time that there are so many threats around the world with ISIS and other terrorist groups," said Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin, a Republican. "We hope that Congress will be able to find a resolution to get DHS funding passed, but we also know there are concerns and questions about immigration and the president's powers."

While some call for compromise, a handful of high-profile Republicans charged that stopping what they see as Obama's unconstitutional power grab may be as important as resolving the funding dispute. The Obama administration last week put on hold plans to shield more than 4 million immigrants living in the country illegally from deportation after a federal judge in Texas temporarily blocked the effort the day the program was scheduled to begin. Twenty-six states, led by Texas, filed suit in December arguing that the president does not have the authority to allow the groups of immigrants to legally stay and work in the United States. The White House is appealing the ruling.

Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, who is weighing a GOP presidential bid, said the court ruling "vindicates the efforts of the Congress to use the power of the purse to prevent the administration from doing what the constitution does not permit them to do."

Pence said he's "strongly urging" the Senate to support a House-passed bill that funds the Department of Homeland Security but also undoes Obama's immigration actions.

Another Republican White House prospect, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, suggested that while compromise might be possible, Republicans "need to be aggressive in pushing back on" the president's immigration plans.

Tobacco giants resist harsh public admissions about smoking

WASHINGTON (AP)—Never underestimate the staying power of big tobacco.

In 2006, U.S. District Judge Gladys Kessler ordered the nation's largest cigarette makers to publicly admit that they had lied for decades about the dangers of smoking.

The basis for the punishment: Testimony from 162 witnesses, a nine-month bench trial and thousands of findings by the judge that defendants engaged in what the largest public health organizations in the country have called a massive campaign of fraud.

Bloodied but unbeaten, the tobacco companies have plunged into another courtroom battle in an effort to stave off the humiliation of having to underwrite an ad campaign in which they brand themselves as liars. Oral arguments are scheduled for Monday before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

The ads would appear in newspapers, on TV, websites and cigarette pack inserts. The ads, called "corrective statements," stem from a civil case the government brought in 1999 under RICO, the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act.

The companies say they stand ready and willing to disseminate factual public health information about cigarettes. But they argue that these ads are designed to ensure that the public "does not believe anything the companies say on any topic."

The companies are asking the appeals court to set aside the corrective statements and craft new ones.

The preamble to the ads says a "federal court has ruled that Altria, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco, Lorillard, and Philip Morris USA deliberately deceived the American public."

The companies say the statement is overbroad and misleading.

Their reasoning is that the findings cited by the judge pertain to the alleged inaccuracy of the companies' public statements about smoking and health, not to whether anyone in the public was actually deceived by the defendants.

The question of whether the companies deceived the public is a disputed factual issue in every fraud case brought against the defendants by an individual smoker, the companies said in a recent court filing.

They say that if the corrective statements are not modified, the question of whether the companies deceived the public will be decided by jurors exposed on countless occasions to the erroneous assertion that the companies engaged in deception.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Finance minister: Greece to submit reforms list by Sunday

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece will submit a list of reforms to be agreed with its creditors Sunday, the country's finance minister said Saturday. "We are in the process of compiling the list of reforms for the institutions," finance minister Yanis Varoufakis told reporters Saturday evening, following an inner cabinet meeting under prime minister Alexis Tsipras. Following weeks of accusations and distrust, Greece and its creditors in the 19-nation eurozone reached an agreement Friday to extend the country's rescue loans, a move that should dramatically ease concerns it was heading for the euro exit as soon as next month.

Nissan executive known as 'father of the Z' dies at 105

TOKYO (AP)—Yutaka Katayama, a former president of Nissan Motor Co.'s U.S. unit who built the Z sports car into a powerful global brand in the 1970s, has died, his son said Saturday. He was 105. Known as the "father of the Z," Katayama won international respect for the Datsun Z as an affordable sports car at a time when Japan-made products were synonymous with slipshod quality. Katayama, who retired from Nissan in 1977, died Thursday of heart failure at a Tokyo hospital, his son Mitsuo said.

Refinery workers strike spreads to biggest US location

The first nationwide oil refinery strike in more than 30 years was poised to expand this weekend in a labor dispute that may start having more of an impact on the price consumers pay for gasoline. The United Steelworkers union said Saturday that workers at the largest refinery in the U.S., the Motiva Enterprises refinery in Port Arthur, Texas, started their strike at midnight Friday. Employees at two other refineries and a chemical plant in Louisiana planned to strike at the end of Saturday. The union said in a statement that it expanded a strike that started Feb. 1 at refineries largely in Texas and California because the industry has refused to "meaningfully address" safety issues through good-faith bargaining. The union also wants to discuss staffing levels and seeks limits on the use of contractors to replace union members in doing daily maintenance work. ***(AP)***

Nation

States seek alternatives for highway funding

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP)—Touted as one of the first interstate highways, a 200-mile span of Interstate 70 between suburban St. Louis and Kansas City stands as a prime example of the challenges facing the nation's roads.

AP

In this photo made with a 25 second exposure on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2015, vehicles travel along Interstate 70 in Wright City, Mo.

Built in the 1950s and `60s with a 20-year-life expectancy, the four-lane highway is crumbling beneath its surface and clogged with traffic as it carries more than 30,000 vehicles a day on many of its rural stretches, requiring more frequent repaving. The cost to rebuild and widen it is estimated at $2 billion to $4 billion—as much as five times the projected yearly construction and maintenance budget of Missouri's transportation department.

And there is no easy way to pay for it. The state fuel tax hasn't risen in about 20 years, and voters defeated a three-quarters of a cent sales tax for transportation. Gov. Jay Nixon has since floated the idea of hiking the gasoline tax and reviving a previously failed plan to turn I-70's reconstruction over to a private entity that could charge tolls estimated at up to $30 per car.

As legislatures convene across the country, lawmakers and governors are confronting similar realities in their own states: how to address an aging network of roads, highways and bridges during an era in which federal money for such projects has remained stagnant or declined.

Figures compiled by The Associated Press show the total amount of money available to states from the Federal Highway Trust Fund has declined 3.5 percent during the five-year period ending in 2013, the latest year for which numbers were available. During that span, the amount of inflation-adjusted federal highway money dropped in all states but Alaska and New York.

As many as 2,800 inmates to be moved from Texas prison

RAYMONDVILLE, Texas (AP)—As many as 2,800 federal prisoners will be moved to other institutions after inmates seized control of part of a prison in South Texas, causing damage that made the facility "uninhabitable," an official said Saturday.

Ed Ross, a spokesman for the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, said the inmates who had taken control are "now compliant" but that negotiations were ongoing Saturday in an effort for staff to "regain complete control" of Willacy County Correctional Center.

"The situation is not resolved, though we're moving toward a peaceful resolution," FBI spokesman Erik Vasys said Saturday evening.

It wasn't immediately clear what progress had been made through the negotiations, but Sheriff Larry Spence said there were no hostages involved in the standoff and only minor injuries reported. Spence said the inmates "have pipes they can use as weapons."

Management & Training Corp., the private contractor that operates the center for the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, said about 2,000 inmates became disruptive Friday because they're upset with medical services and refused to perform work duties.

MTC spokesman Issa Arnita said in a statement that prisons officials have begun moving the inmates and that the process would continue into next week.

Arnita said prison administrators met with inmates Friday to address their concerns but that the prisoners "breached" their housing units and reached the recreation yard. The Valley Morning Star reports fires were set inside three of the prison's 10 housing units.

Hundreds mark 50 years since Malcolm X's assassination

NEW YORK (AP)—Activists, actors and politicians gathered Saturday in New York City to honor civil rights leader Malcolm X with a ceremony at the Harlem site where he was assassinated 50 years ago.

About 300 people converged to hear remarks from one of Malcolm X's six daughters, Ilyasah Shabazz, as well as elected officials. The ceremony was held at the Malcolm X & Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center, formerly known as the Audubon Ballroom.

A blue light shone onto the floor in the exact spot where he was gunned down. A mural with images of Malcolm X adorned a wall.

"He was just a young man who gave all that he possibly could," Shabazz said after a moment of silence marking the time of his death.

Malcolm X, whose full name was El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, was 39 when he was shot in the theater on Feb. 21, 1965, as he was preparing to address several hundred of his followers.

By the time he died, the Muslim leader had moderated his militant message of black separatism and pride but was still very much a passionate advocate of black unity, self-respect and self-reliance. Three members of the Nation of Islam were convicted of murder in his death. He had repudiated the Nation of Islam less than a year earlier.

In an interview with The Associated Press on the eve of the anniversary observance, Shabazz said she was pleased that the site is now a place for people to get a sense of empowerment.

"One of the great things about Malcolm is that he redefined the civil rights movement to include a human rights agenda," she said. "So while we are focusing on integrating schools, integrating housing and all these other things, Malcolm said that we demand our human rights `by any means necessary.' And that means ... that we have to address these problems. That we have to identify them, and absolutely discuss them."

Social and political activist Ron Daniels delivered the keynote address, calling Malcolm X a man of honesty and integrity. He ended his speech with chants of "Long Live Malcolm X!" as people stood and clapped.

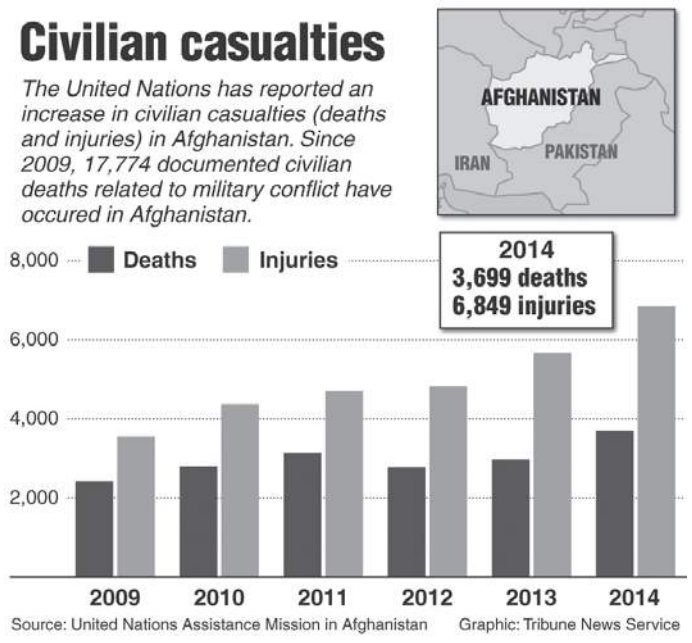
Asia

Afghanistan-Taliban talks begin in March

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—After more than a decade of warfare, negotiations between the Afghan government and the Taliban are set to begin, officials, diplomats and experts said as President Ashraf Ghani declared that peace is closer now than at any time since the war began following the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

On Saturday, Ghani said that "the grounds for peace have never been better in the last 36 years" of continuous Afghan wars, including 13 years of conflict with the Taliban.

Since taking office in September, Ghani has rolled out a complex strategy aimed at forcing the Taliban leadership to accept that their cause—replacing his government with an Islamist emirate—is hopeless. He has enlisted the support of regional countries believed to protect, fund and arm the Taliban, including Pakistan which is pressuring the insurgents to open a channel for peace negotiations, officials and diplomats said.



A senior Afghan official, who spoke on condition he not be identified as he was not authorized to discuss the issue, said hopes are high that a dialogue, as a precursor to full-scale peace negotiations, will begin soon.

Other sources said contact between the two sides could begin as early as March. There is currently no dialogue between the Afghan government and the Taliban, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to officially brief the media.

Speaking at a joint press conference Saturday with visiting U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter, Ghani said: "Our approach is productive. We are hopeful. The direction is positive but we cannot make premature announcements."

Myanmar says Kokang rebels on the run despite allies' help

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's ethnic Kokang rebels are being supported in their fight against government forces by allied minority rebel groups and former Chinese soldiers recruited as mercenaries, a senior military officer said Saturday.

Speaking at a news conference in the capital, Naypyitaw, Myanmar's chief of military affairs security said that despite the assistance, the Kokang guerrillas were retreating after about two weeks of combat. Lt. Gen. Mya Tun Oo also said that the government was forced to fight because it needed to defend its sovereignty over Kokang, a special region near the border with China.

The army had to act because the Kokang "tried to grab power from the elected local administration," he said. "Since this is an attack on part of our territory, the army will not yield to such an attempt."

More than 50 military troops and 70 Kokang rebels have been killed in fighting since Feb. 9, according to the government.

Mya Tun Oo said the Kokang were being helped in combat by guerrilla armies from the minority areas of Kachin, Mong La, Wa, Palaung and northern Shan. Kachin and Wa rebels field relatively powerful forces, but the Kachin have denied taking part in combat in Kokang.

He also said the Kokang forces included former Chinese soldiers who were providing military training. Myanmar officials had previously suggested that the Kokang had support from China—a claim denied by Beijing. The Kokang are ethnically Chinese, and their leaders have sheltered on the Chinese side of the border.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Singapore's founder hospitalized with pneumonia

SINGAPORE (AP)—Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's founding father, has been hospitalized for severe pneumonia, the Prime Minister's Office said. Lee, 91, was admitted to Singapore General Hospital on Feb. 5, the office said in a statement Saturday. His condition has stabilized and he remains on mechanical ventilation in intensive care, the statement said. It said Lee was conscious and lightly sedated, and that doctors were continuing to monitor his condition. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, the son of Lee Kuan Yew, said in a Facebook posting that he visited his father on Saturday to wish him a speedy recovery.

Nursing home worker in China kills 3, injures 15 with brick

BEIJING (AP)—A nursing home worker in central China accused of killing three elderly residents with a brick and injuring 15 other people had argued with his boss over unpaid wages, according to a local government and state media. Luo Renchu, 64, attacked elderly residents and staff at the privately run home in Hunan province at around 2 a.m. Thursday, the first day of the Chinese New Year, the Shuangfeng county government said in a statement. Luo fled and police said they apprehended him on a mountain on Saturday afternoon. The official Xinhua News Agency, citing police, reported Saturday that the attack happened shortly after Luo argued with the nursing home's owner over unpaid wages of 40,000 yuan ($6,500). Luo and his wife, who also works at the Aixin Nursing Home, had been promised 10,000 yuan before the new year, but owner Fang Hongchun gave them only 6,000 yuan, Xinhua said.

Chilean cyclist's record quest ends in death in Thailand

BANGKOK (AP)—A Chilean cyclist's quest to bike around the world in five years has ended with his death in a road accident in northeast Thailand, police said Sunday. Juan Francisco Guillermo, 47, was hit by a pickup truck and immediately killed Saturday on a highway in Nakhon Ratchasima province. According to police and accounts on social media, Guillermo was attempting to set a Guinness World Record by cycling 250,000 kilometers (155,350 miles) on five continents in five years. His journey started in November 2010 and was scheduled to end in November this year. Guillermo's wife from Hong Kong, who was on another bicycle with their 2-year-old son, suffered a slight sprain in the accident, said police Col. Torsak Thammingmongkol. It was not clear how long they had accompanied Guillermo in his round-the-world cycling odyssey.

World

1K join Muslim 'ring of peace' outside synagogue

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—More than 1,000 people formed a "ring of peace" Saturday outside Oslo's main synagogue at the initiative of a group of young Muslims.

The event in the Norwegian capital follows a series of attacks against Jews in Europe, including the terror attacks in Paris in January and in neighboring Denmark last week.

One of the eight independent organizers of Saturday's event in Oslo, Hajrah Arshad said the gathering shows "that Islam is about love and unity."

"We want to demonstrate that Jews and Muslims do not hate each other," co-organizer Zeeshan Abdullah told the crowd, standing in a half-circle before the white synagogue. "We do not want individuals to define what Islam is for the rest of us."

"There are many more peace-mongers than warmongers," he added.

■■■

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Turkey launched an overnight military operation into neighboring Syria to evacuate troops guarding an Ottoman tomb, authorities said Sunday.

■■■

TRT television broadcaster said ground troops backed by warplanes crossed into Syrian territory to reach the tomb, just over the border near the town of Kobani.

Private NTV television said one soldier was killed in the operation. The Turkish military later issued a statement saying the soldier had been killed in an "accident" en route to the tomb, without elaborating.

On Twitter, Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said the tomb of Suleyman Shah, the grandfather of Osman I, founder of the Ottoman Empire, was moved into Turkey. The tomb, once some 35 kilometers (22 miles) from Turkey on the banks of the Euphrates River, was in Syria's embattled Aleppo province and is considered Turkish territory.

Davutoglu said the tomb would be sent to a "new location in Syria." He did not elaborate, though he was expected to give remarks later Sunday.

■■■

Norway's Chief Rabbi Michael Melchior sang the traditional Jewish end of Sabbath song outside the synagogue before the large crowd holding hands.

Co-organizer Hassan Raja said it was the first time he heard the song.

Ervin Kohn, head of Oslo's Jewish community, called the gathering in sub-zero temperatures "unique."

Several European countries have seen an increase in anti-Semitic incidents recently, starting when the conflict between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza intensified last year.

In Paris, three Muslim gunmen killed 17 people at a kosher grocery, the offices of weekly Charlie Hebdo and elsewhere in early January. Last week a single assailant in Copenhagen killed a Jewish security guard outside a synagogue and a Danish filmmaker attending a free speech event.

Nigerian troops retake town as Boko Haram attacks villages

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP)—Nigerian troops retook a major border town and killed scores of Boko Haram fighters Saturday, Nigeria's military said, although witnesses also reported the Islamic extremists killed scores in attacks on other villages.

Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Chris Olukolade said troops seized back the garrison town of Baga, on Lake Chad and the border with Cameroon, after a fighter jet bombarded the area and soldiers advanced on booby-trapped roads by dismantling some 1,500 land mines.

"Many of the terrorists died while an unknown but substantial number of them fled with various degrees of injury," Olukolade said.

Many insurgents drowned in trying to escape as soldiers stormed into Baga early Friday, he added.

The victory, which the AP was unable to verify independently, comes amid a major multinational push to halt the spreading Islamic uprising by Nigeria's home-grown extremist group, which has been attacking neighboring Chad, Cameroon and Niger.

In the latest Boko Haram violence involving Niger, a military official said Saturday that seven soldiers were killed in an overnight attack on the island of Karamga in Lake Chad. Col. Salaou Barmou said 14 Boko Haram assailants were also killed in the fighting Friday night.

In a major turnaround after months of gains by Boko Haram, military from Nigeria and Chad have reported retaking at least a dozen towns in recent weeks that had been in extremist hands for months.

Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau this week warned he will disrupt March 28 presidential elections that are shaping up to be the most closely contested vote in the history of Africa's most populous nation and its biggest oil producer. Boko Haram wants to install an Islamic caliphate and says democracy is a corrupt Western concept.

Russian conscripts tell of fears of being sent to Ukraine

MOSCOW (AP)—Human rights groups have received dozens of complaints in the past month from Russian conscripts who say they have been strong-armed or duped into signing contracts with the military to become professional soldiers. The conscripts are then sent to participate in drills in the southern Rostov region bordering Ukraine.

Because only contract soldiers can legally be dispatched abroad, worries are spreading among families that inexperienced young conscripts could be sent to fight in eastern Ukraine alongside pro-Russian separatists. Many soldiers contend that's already happened.

One former soldier told The Associated Press that he was pressured into extending his service.

When the conscript, Alexander, was due to finish his year of mandatory military service in October, he said his commander told him he had no choice: He had to sign a contract and head to southern Russia for troop exercises. The 20-year-old knew that meant he might end up fighting in Ukraine. Other soldiers he talked to had been sent there.

His commanders "didn't talk about it, but other soldiers told us about it, primarily paratroopers who had been there," Alexander said in an interview with the AP, which is not using his surname for his safety.

The former private first class ended his military service this month. He fled Rostov on Dec. 31 and avoided being sent to Ukraine—although not without first being threatened with prison for desertion. He was able to quit legally only after reaching out to NGOs for help.

The Russian Defense Ministry did not respond to a written request for comment sent Feb. 9 or to follow-up phone calls.

While Russia has denied it is sending arms and troops to support the separatists in Ukraine, since the summer dozens of soldiers have been reported killed by explosions during drills in the Rostov region - deaths that rights groups actually attribute to the conflict over the border. Weapons appear to flow freely across the frontier, and one group of Russian paratroopers was even captured in August, 50 kilometers (30 miles) inside the war zone.

Focus

AP PHOTO/JUAN KARITA

In this Dec. 1, 2014 photo, doctors and assistants work on a kidney transplant for Maria Ramos, who received a donated kidney from her mother, at a private clinic in La Paz, Bolivia. Ramos, 27, finally got the kidney she needed thanks to an ambitious new Bolivian government program that makes organ transplants available at no charge to the poor. Yet the program must overcome multiple hurdles, beginning with deep-rooted cultural resistance in this largely indigenous nation.

Andean culture frustrates organ transplants in Bolivia

By PAOLA FLORES
Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP)—For seven years, Maria Ramos battled bouts of depression as she underwent thrice-weekly dialysis treatments to keep her alive, her ambition of becoming a schoolteacher a seemingly unattainable dream.

Now, she has hope. In December, the 27-year-old Ramos finally got the kidney she needed thanks to an ambitious new Bolivian government program that makes organ transplants available at no charge to the poor.

The program has boosted transplants threefold from 2009 to a record 182 in 2104, and access to dialysis machines in public hospitals has quintupled since President Evo Morales took office a decade ago. Before its launch, most poor Bolivians with failing vital organs typically faced death.

Yet the program must overcome multiple hurdles, beginning with deep-rooted cultural resistance in this largely indigenous nation.

"There is no custom of donating organs, not in life nor when someone dies," said Silvia Paz, director of the Renal Health program that was launched last year.

Many Bolivian highlanders believe that if someone is buried without an organ, his or her soul will wander restlessly and not find peace. Also complicating health care - impeding early diagnoses of multiple ills - is the common practice among poorer Bolivians of seeking out "curanderos," or traditional healers, in lieu of doctors.

Before a friend finally found her the doctor who diagnosed her, Maria Ramos' mother took her to a "curandero" who gave her herbal teas that made her vomit.

"I even thought the devil had gotten into my body," she said.

In the end Ramos, as nearly all organ donation beneficiaries in Bolivia must, got her kidney from a relative - her mother.

"A lot of people say that the body should be buried whole, but I had to give my kidney to save my daughter," said her 54-year-old mother, Carmen, who earns the minimum wage of $213 a month as a gardener and whose older husband barely works.

Ramos now says she can pursue the teaching career she has long aspired to.

While the program is giving new hope to the long-neglected, it remains incipient, with challenges aplenty.

Under a 2011 law, organs can be removed from the newly dead for transplant with familial consent, but only four kidney transplants were performed last year under such circumstances, said Juan Carlos Calvimontes, a former health minister.

A common belief among the Aymara and Quechua who populate Bolivia's high plains, says anthropologist Milton Eyzaguirre, is that neither the organ donor nor the beneficiary will live peacefully because "the soul resides in every part of the body."

"The Andean view of the universe holds that humans arrive whole into this world and that's how we should leave," says traditional healer Mariano Quispe.

Such beliefs could impede efforts to deal with a growing health issue, though Quispe says people now often compensate by making offerings to Pachamana, the earth god, before entering the operating room.

A record 114,690 organ transplants were recorded globally in 2012, and nearly seven in 10 were of kidneys. Sixteen percent, or 17,923, occurred in Latin America, according to the World Health Organization. And the WHO says the need for replacement organs is expected to rise.

In Bolivia alone, chronic renal failure is up 60 percent in the past nine years, due largely to changes in lifestyle and diet, according to the Health Ministry.

No government-backed organ donation program exists, though a public relations campaign is planned this year to promote the practice. There is no process, as in other countries, for indicating on one's driver's license or national ID card the desire to donate an organ upon death.

Donors must instead register with the Health Ministry. A computerized registry system does exist in the eastern city of Santa Cruz and the idea is to extend that model nationally.

Eighty Bolivians are on the waiting list for kidneys. Without more deceased organ donors, their chances of receiving one are slim.

Among them is Xenobia Tarqui, a 22-year-old nanny and only child who lost her parents six years ago to a road accident.

Though she needed it earlier, she began dialysis treatment three years ago when it became free and she now spends hours a week hooked up at a public hospital.

Tarqui tries to stay positive.

"At least now I have the hope of getting a donor."

Health & Fitness

Doctors say fitness trackers, health apps can boost care

HACKENSACK, N.J. (AP)—That phone app keeping track of your exercise and meals might keep you out of the hospital one day.

Why give your doctors permission to incorporate data from fitness trackers and health apps into electronic patient records? Well, they might spot signs of an ailment sooner and suggest behavioral changes or medication before you land in the emergency room. They also might be able to monitor how you're healing from surgery or whether you're following a treatment regimen.

"Right now we only see our patients for about a 15-minute visit in the office, and it's a very constricted view," said Dr. Lauren Koniaris, a specialist in pulmonary critical care at Hackensack University Medical Center in New Jersey. "This really globalizes the view of their health status, so that we're really in contact with them on a much more daily if not hour-to-hour basis. It's almost like a virtual house call."

AP
In this Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015 photograph, Hackensack University Medical Center cardiologist Dr. Sarah Timmapuri, left, examines patient Gary Wilhelm, 51, as he looks at data on a new Fitbit Surge that is synchronized with hospital monitoring equipment, during an examination, in Hackensack, N.J.

At Hackensack, a handful of patients at risk for heart failure are asked to use a fitness tracker to count steps walked and flights climbed. They are also asked to record what they eat—by photographing the product's bar code, for instance—using a phone app that has a database containing nutrition information on thousands of food items. Using Apple's new HealthKit technology, data from the various trackers and apps gets automatically transferred to the Epic MyChart app on the iPhone. From there, the information goes to the hospital's records system, which also comes from Epic.

Hackensack wants to expand to more patients and start tracking blood pressure and sleep quality, too. But the hospital first needs to ensure that teams are in place to review the glut of data coming in. More broadly, there are consumer privacy and security issues to address, along with questions about whether these trackers and apps really improve patient care. The University of California, San Francisco is studying which gadgets are reliable and whether that reliability extends to patients with extreme conditions. Then they have to figure out what information is really meaningful—not just noise.

Many doctors and hospitals see potential. The Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, uses Fitbit trackers to monitor hip-replacement patients for a month after surgery. Health workers get data on daily steps and can tell when patients have trouble walking—a hundred or more miles away. The Ochsner Health System in New Orleans is turning to wireless scales and blood-pressure devices to help reduce readmissions for chronic diseases such as heart failure. Noticing a small weight gain, for instance, might reveal fluid buildup resulting from the heart failing to pump normally. Not only can doctors intervene sooner, they can use the data to show how exercise can help lower blood pressure.

"If we're going to succeed in improving health, we have to get patients more engaged in their care," said Dr. Richard Milani, a cardiologist at Ochsner.

Heart-attack patients have long been asked to weigh themselves, while those with diabetes have had to check glucose levels. Smartphone technology makes all that easier and gets measurements to doctors more regularly and reliably. There's no forgetting to record a number or transposing digits.

With Apple's HealthKit tools, disparate gadgets and records systems can work together more easily. Think of HealthKit as a common language, eliminating the need for translators. Beyond sleep and exercise data coming from fitness trackers, doctors can eventually incorporate devices that measure glucose, blood pressure, respiratory rates and blood-oxygen levels. The devices communicate with the iPhone wirelessly or through the headphone or charging port. Google, Samsung and Microsoft have similar ambitions that will expand monitoring to users of Android and Windows phones, though they aren't as far along. For now, developers must write separate code for each Android or Windows app to integrate.

Gary Wilhelm, 51, who works at Hackensack on payroll and finance technology, joined the hospital's app test after he suffered a heart attack in October. He appeared animated during a check-up this month as he showed Dr. Sarah Timmapuri, his cardiologist, various charts on flights climbed and cholesterol intake. There were a few bad days that Wilhelm blamed on the Super Bowl. Timmapuri instructed Wilhelm to monitor his pulse on his new Fitbit Surge. If it gets to about 155 beats per minute, he's to end his workout.

SIDEBAR Challenges for doctors using fitness trackers & apps

NEW YORK (AP)—More hospitals and doctors are starting to use data from fitness trackers and health apps to help treat patients. But they are moving cautiously. The technology has a lot of potential, but there are key challenges to work out:

LIABILITY

What if a patient's data shows signs of an ailment, but no one notices? That's the chief reason Hackensack University Medical Center in New Jersey is starting with only six patients and three doctors and is monitoring mainly lifestyle data, such as nutrition. It wants to add blood pressure, heart rate and other vital signs to its monitoring, but a hospital committee needs to sign off first.

Doctors say that many patients already bring health data to visits, often as printouts that an office must then scan in. Getting data electronically through Apple's HealthKit and similar technologies would give doctors and nurses more options to see charts and look for patterns. Ultimately, Hackensack and other hospitals envision setting up a specific person or team to review incoming data. Software alerts could be triggered when a measure falls outside the ideal range, and a nurse or technician would check for accuracy and refer unusual cases to doctors.

IS DATA RELIABLE?

Many consumer devices such as fitness trackers aren't regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, so how much should doctors rely on them? The Center for Digital Health Innovation at the University of California, San Francisco is studying this in a partnership with Samsung. One way to test involves strapping a device on 100 individuals and measuring them as they stand, sit, exercise and sleep. Readings would be compared with those from devices known to be reliable.

"Just because it works in a lab on a couple of individuals doesn't necessarily means it works on a broad variety of individuals in real life," said Michael Blum, the center's director.

PRIVACY AND SECURITY CONCERNS

Data entered into a health care provider's electronics record system is covered by strict federal privacy laws, which subject providers to penalties for breaches. But if you've signed waivers as part of insurance claims, your insurer can get the data, too. Nicolas P. Terry, director of the Hall Center for Law and Health at Indiana University, isn't too concerned about that, though. He said President Barack Obama's health care law includes protections for pre-existing health conditions.

Health privacy laws don't extend to technology companies that make trackers and apps, however. The companies might be subject to penalties if they fail to abide by their own privacy policies. But if they never promise to safeguard the information, they are free to share and sell it, Terry said.

The concerns exist regardless of whether a doctor is using the information for patient care. Although a step counter might seem innocuous, it also might record the location of your step.

"Now you have a surveillance system," Terry said. "If the people you meet also have wearable devices, we could figure out who you meet." He says data companies might also build health scores that potential employers and life insurance companies would love to have.

DO I GET PAID FOR THIS TIME?

Historically, doctors are paid for office visits and procedures. Medicare and private insurers are starting to reward doctors for preventative care, however. With the Medicare program, for instance, doctors are given a set monthly fee to keep patients healthy. That could involve reviewing fitness data and checking on patients regularly by phone to identify problems that might otherwise result in more costly treatments or visits.

"It is slowly changing...but it's still challenging to get paid for analysis and for email and phone call time," said Dr. John Schumann, a Tulsa, Oklahoma, internist who blogs on health issues at GlassHospital.

OTHER LIMITATIONS

These devices and apps do little to ensure that patients take the medicines they're supposed to. There are companies developing sensors to record when you pick up a bottle, but for now, doctors have to trust their patients.

Doctors also need to ensure that they aren't getting data only from younger patients who are already highly motivated and aware about their health.

"What we need is data for older people, and they are not doing that right now, with rare, rare exceptions," said Dr. David J. Cook, who is leading research at the Mayo Clinic into how trackers and apps can improve care. Because hip-replacement patients that Mayo wants to track tend to be older, Mayo has had to loan them Fitbit trackers and $60 Android phones.

Neither Fitbit nor Android works with Apple's HealthKit, so programmers at Mayo had to write code to integrate those devices. HealthKit should make future integrations easier at Mayo and elsewhere, but there will always be some devices and apps excluded.

Life & Style

'Birdman' tops Spirit Awards; Keaton takes best actor

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—A day before it may soar at the Oscars, "Birdman" spread its wings at the 30th Independent Film Spirit Awards, winning best picture, best actor for Michael Keaton and best cinematography.

The elegantly stitched together backstage comedy came away the big winner at the annual pre-Oscars afternoon celebration of independent film on Saturday. Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's "Birdman" won over what many consider its stiffest competition, the 12-years-in-the-making "Boyhood," though that film's maker, Richard Linklater, still took the directing honor.

As Hollywood has increasingly devoted itself to global blockbusters, the Spirit Awards—once a casual indie appetizer to the Oscars—feels more and more like the center of the industry, or at least a more idealized version of it. Set in a beachside tent in Santa Monica the day before the Academy Awards are held across town, the Spirits—broadcast live this year for the first time—variously boasted of growing prominence and of preserving a way of moviemaking often regarded as obsolete at the studios.

"We are threatened to become a species in extinction," said Inarritu, the Mexican filmmaker, accepting the best feature award.

But the blur between the Spirit Award and the Oscars, despite their vastly different dress codes, is nearly complete. Last year's acting Spirit winners all mirrored the next day's Oscar winners, and "12 Years a Slave" triumphed at both ceremonies.

AP

From left, Emmanuel Lubezki, Emma Stone, and Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu pose in the press room with the award for best feature for "Birdman" or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) at the 30th Film Independent Spirit Awards on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015, in Santa Monica, Calif.

The same could be true this year, where Oscar front-runners Julianne Moore ("Still Alice"), J.K. Simmons ("Whiplash") and Patricia Arquette ("Boyhood") all won Spirit Awards. (Notably absent, however, was possible best-actor winner Eddie Redmayne from "The Theory of Everything," a movie that wasn't eligible.)

Backstage, Redmayne's chief rival, Keaton, basked in the final glow of a lengthy awards season.

"I'll be in the fetal position, bawling, three months from now, missing it," said an exuberant Keaton. Before "Birdman," the 63-year-old veteran actor had never been nominated for an Oscar.

But even if the Spirit Awards can feel more and more like an Academy Awards dress rehearsal, they still seek to highlight films that often struggle to get made or to find distribution.

"We made this movie in 23 days for $4 million," said Moore of the Alzheimer's disease drama "Still Alice."

"I brought my own bras, and my own food. I begged my friend Alec Baldwin to do it," she said.

"Nightcrawler," the dark Los Angeles noir, won two Spirit Awards: best first feature for Dan Gilroy, as well as best screenplay for his script.

Gilroy, who recalled years of writing screenplays to bigger-budget films that never got made, tersely applauded those in attendance as "holdouts of a tsunami of superhero movies that have swept over this industry. We have survived. We have thrived."

The line the Spirit Awards straddle wasn't always so clear. Hosts Fred Armisen and Kristen Bell opened the ceremony with a medley, with Armisen singing, "I'm a little bit indie," and Bell echoing "I'm a little bit studio." The biggest gasp in the audience came when Paul Thomas Anderson, who shared in the Spirits' Robert Altman Award for the ensemble cast of his "Inherent Vice," dared to criticize a sponsor, cursing American Airlines for losing his bags.

Later, director Bennett Miller, whose "Foxcatcher" won the Special Distinction Award for its uniqueness of vision, read a note from a remorseful Anderson: "I said some bad things. I feel bad. I was trying to exhibit my independent spirit. I thought if I wore a flannel shirt and said a bad word, you would love me more. My apologies to American Airlines. It was actually United."

But the theme of commerce versus art held throughout the Spirit Awards, where winners lamented thinner checks but took pride in more soulful films. When "Boyhood" star Ethan Hawke accepted the best director award for an absent Linklater, he called the film "a flare gun" to inspire other radical visions.

"What Rick always said: it's the Wild West out there. This art form is so young," Hawke said. "There are so many stories to be told and it's going to be told not by corporate America but by you."

One of the awards' most moving speeches came from Justin Simien, who won best first screenplay for his "Dear White People" script, a satirical comedy about black students at an Ivy League college.

"I started writing this 10 years ago because I didn't see myself in the culture," said Simien. "If you don't see yourself in the culture, please put yourself there because we need you."

The awards are put on by Film Independent, a group of filmmakers, industry professionals and movie buffs, who generally select films made with a budget of $20 million or less.

The Edward Snowden documentary "Citizenfour" took best documentary. The black-and-white Polish drama "Ida" took best foreign film. Naturally, both are also the front-runners in Sunday's Oscars.

Movie 'Timbuktu' sweeps France's Cesar awards, gets 7 prizes

PARIS (AP)—The French film industry showered honors on "Timbuktu" at Friday's 40th annual Cesar awards—France's equivalent of the Oscars—selecting it as best movie, one in seven prizes it scooped up days before competing in Hollywood for an Oscar for best foreign film.

Abderrahmane Sissako, a Mauritanian, took best director's prize for "Timbuktu," set in the ancient north Malian city when it was under control of Muslim extremists.

Sean Penn was the other shining star at the Cesar ceremonies, given a Cesar of Honor for his life's work, and a standing ovation from the elegant crowd at the sumptuous Chatelet Theater. Penn was accompanied to the ceremony by Charlize Theron, who lit up with pride during her beau's award speech.

"Sean, France loves you," said Marion Cotillard as she presented the award.

Kristen Stewart was the other American given honors by the French with a Cesar for best actress in a second role for Olivier Assayas' "Sils Marie," a French-Swiss-German production starring Juliette Binoche.

Best actor and best actress awards went to France's new generation of young actors, Pierre Niney for "Yves Saint Laurent" in which he played the designer and Adele Haenel for "The Combattants."

"Timbuktu" was the star of the ceremony, nominated for awards in eight categories and sweeping up seven.

Sissako, accepting the best director prize, thanked his native Mauritania, where "Timbuktu" was filmed and his foreign crew was "protected," and France for proving it is a nation "open to others" by showering his work with awards.

"Timbuktu" is competing for an Oscar for best foreign film at Sunday's Academy Awards ceremony. The movie plays out in Timbuktu during its occupation in 2012 by Muslim extremists who oversaw harsh Sharia law. Despite the reality he portrayed, Sissako revealed his humanist and optimistic view as he accepted best director's award.

"There is no shock of civilization. It doesn't exist," he said. "There is an encounter between civilizations."

Chef Art Smith hosts mass gay wedding on Miami Beach

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP)—With a mix of elegance and irreverence, only celebrity chef Art Smith could round up his famous chef buddies, a sea of white orchids and a drag queen DJ to pull off a wedding ceremony Saturday for more than two dozen same-sex couples on Miami Beach.

Smith, a Florida native and former chef to Oprah Winfrey and Gov. Bob Graham, is revered by fellow chefs and those in the gay and lesbian community, known as the chef with a big Southern accent and an even bigger heart.

When Smith heard that Florida judges had lifted the state's ban on same-sex marriage last month, he set out to throw an over the top-wedding officiated by chef Guy Fieri, with a stunning cake from Duff Goldman, and a dance party spun by local star Chi Chi LaRue. He invited the first 101 couples to participate in the free wedding, noting he chose the number after the movie "101 Dalmatians" to shame Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi, who has ardently fought to keep same-sex marriage from becoming legal.

"We have our own Cruella De Vil, Pam Bondi. She was determined that she was going to prevent equality from coming to Florida," Smith said.

"For a state known for sunshine, it was living in the darkness when it came to LGBT rights and it was important to acknowledge that."

South Beach is also memorable to Smith who met his partner, Jesus Salgueiro, here 15 years ago while in town with Winfrey. Smith went out to buy some flowers for her home. He returned with the flowers and Salgueiro, whom he married five years ago on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial with a big `ole ceremony where Moby performed.

Nicole Griffin, 43, and Stephanie Swanson, 42, had been waiting a few years to say `I do.' The Tampa couple moved from Indiana shortly before gay marriage became legal there. Friends flew in from California and Indianapolis to see the women, both wearing elegant white gowns, get married Saturday.

"(Pam Bondi) fought so hard. She denied us for so long ... I think our presence today and being able to do this is a defeat of that mentality," Swanson said.

Bondi is appealing the rulings and some county officials in more conservative areas have even stopped performing marriage ceremonies.

Seth Anderson and his partner Michael Ferguson, both 33, flew out from Utah to renew their vows. They were among the first to legally marry there two years ago, but none of their family or friends were able to attend the impromptu ceremony at the courthouse where the couple had nothing to wear but their work clothes.

AP

In this Feb. 26, 2011 file photo, Celebrity Chef Art Smith discuss a healthy journey to wellness during an interview with the Associated Press in Miami Beach, Fla.

"We wanted to come and be a part of this and celebrate with all the other people getting married," Anderson said.

They were one of the couples who walked down the aisle in the courtyard of The James Royal Palm hotel as a small orchestra played. Many couples said they became emotional when Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives host Fieri, a chef with spiky hair, tattoos and a love for Southern BBQ, officiated the ceremony in honor of his late sister who was a lesbian.

Dozens of A-listers take a casual day for Oscar rehearsals

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Less than 24 hours before the super-fancy Oscar ceremony, it was jeans-and-sneakers day at the Dolby Theatre.

Eddie Murphy, Jennifer Aniston, Liam Neeson, Benedict Cumberbatch, Naomi Watts, Kevin Hart, Channing Tatum and Zoe Saldana were among the casually-clad stars rehearsing for the Academy Awards Saturday, while Nicole Kidman, Reese Witherspoon, Marion Cotillard, Jared Leto, Dwayne Johnson and Oprah Winfrey dressed things up.

A day before the Hollywood celebration seen around the world, stars paraded through the theater to test-drive their lines on the teleprompter, try out their show-day shoes and get comfortable with the winners' envelope.

"I'm so glad we're doing this!" said Terrence Howard, who wore an ascot beneath his cardigan sweater, as he fumbled over his lines. He ran through them again and again, explaining, "I've been on vacation for a while."

Hart, wearing a letterman's jacket and ripped jeans, showed a hint of nerves.

"This is my first time," he told a stage manager. "It's pretty intense."

Other stars brought the comfort of experience with them. Aniston, who arrived in flip-flops, cargo pants and a denim jacket, carried high heels in a paper bag and put them on backstage. Kidman went a step further and rehearsed barefoot.

AP
Oprah Winfrey, left, and Neil Patrick Harris are seen during rehearsals for the 87th Academy Awards in Los Angeles, Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015.

Statuesque in a white, ruffle-front blouse and loose black trousers, Kidman shed her stilettos backstage because her show-day shoes aren't quite as tall.

"So I'll be the right height," she said.

Leto and Chris Pratt had fun with their rehearsals, each pretending to trip on their way to the microphone.

"Yes, I know, my jacket's fabulous," Leto said when he arrived center stage, having come straight from the Spirit Awards in an elaborate beaded blazer and a felt hat to rival Pharrell's.

Murphy, who wore an all-black ensemble of hoodie, pants, sneakers and shades, seemed serious as he rehearsed—until he was about to leave the stage.

"Why are y'all playing James Brown music for me?" he asked. "Play 'Party All the Time'," he said, referring to his 1985 hit single.

Jason Bateman, in a plaid shirt and jeans, had a special guest in tow: his 8-year-old daughter, Francesca.

"From here, we're going to take it up a notch and go for frozen yogurt," he said.

Tatum, wearing a gray sweatshirt, baggy khakis, untied boots and his ballcap askew, took time backstage to chat with the students of Team Oscar: aspiring young filmmakers who won the chance to carry Oscar statuettes onstage during the big show.

Tatum told them about dancing with Charlize Theron during his first Academy Awards appearance. He said he was so nervous that he started drinking as soon as they finished the performance, and was half-drunk when he went on the Jimmy Kimmel show later that night.

Winfrey, who arrived camera-ready in a long, cream-colored skirt and matching sweater, brought best friend Gayle King to her rehearsal. King snapped cell-phone pictures of Winfrey on the Oscar stage before she practiced her lines, and took more photos after.

Meanwhile, host Neil Patrick Harris popped out of his dressing room, saying, "Let's go see what's happening."

He met up with Winfrey on stage. The two hugged as King snapped away.

"What are you most excited about?" Winfrey asked the first-time Oscar host.

"I'm most excited about the first commercial break," Harris admitted.

Winfrey also stopped backstage to chat with the student trophy presenters.

"You guys have fun tomorrow," she said. "There's nothing like it."

SIDEBAR

Oscar nominees offer thoughts on host NPH

LOS ANGELES (AP)—If Neil Patrick Harris' nerves are running high as a first-time host of the Academy Awards on Sunday, he need look no further than the night's nominees for a friendly face. Here's what they had to say about the multitalented entertainer taking the Oscar reins:

■ "I think he is a triple-threat. He's such an amazing singer, performer. He's so multi-talented. I'm really looking forward to it. He was on Broadway. He's a spectacular man."—Best actor nominee Eddie Redmayne of "The Theory of Everything."

■ "He's a class act who knows how to be funny in a very dignified way, and also very irreverent. He's an incredible showman, and that's always been part of the Academy Awards... He'll be unique and special as the actor, performer and artist that he is."—Laura Dern, nominated for best supporting actress for "Wild."

■ "The last time I saw him it was on stage. I went to see 'Hedwig (and the Angry Inch)' in New York. He was just brilliant. I'm looking forward to seeing what he's going to do."—Best actress nominee Marion Cotillard of "Two Days, One Night."

■ "I think he'll be good. They're always good."—Twelve-time nominee Roger Deakins, up for best cinematography for "Unbroken."

■ "That guy is crazy talented. That's a good choice. He's one of those rare few who can do so many things, guys like Jimmy Fallon. Neil Patrick Harris is the perfect choice for me."—Michael Keaton of "Birdman," nominated for best actor.

■ "I'll try not to kill him. I think they'll probably check my purse, so I can't bring a box cutter."—Best actress nominee Rosamund Pike, joking (hopefully) about her screen time with Harris in "Gone Girl."

Spain's 'Polseres Vermelles' wins Int'l Emmy Kids Award

NEW YORK (AP)—Spain's "Polseres Vermelles" has won for best series at the International Emmy Kids Awards.

The Catalan TV show about friendship among teenagers with serious illnesses in a hospital ward was the source for the Fox series, "Red Band Society," that aired its last episode earlier this month after production was halted due to poor ratings.

Britain's "Mike the Knight" about a magical kingdom was honored as the best pre-school series at Friday night's awards ceremony at Chelsea Piers in New York City.

Other Kids Awards winners included Sweden's "Wild Kids" in the non-scripted entertainment category; Chile's "Con Que Suenas?" (What's Your Dream?) Season 2 for factual; France's "The Jungle Bunch to the Rescue" for animation, and the Netherlands' "Alles mag" (Anything Goes) for TV movie/mini-series.

Khloe, Kim Kardashian safe after Montana traffic accident

BOZEMAN, Mont. (AP)—Khloe and Kim Kardashian are safe after the vehicle they were in slid off a Montana road and into a ditch on Saturday.

Montana Highway Patrol Capt. Mark Wilfore says the accident occurred before noon on a highway between Bozeman and Belgrade, where the Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport is located. Wilfore said he did not know their destination.

Wilfore said a third person in the vehicle was not hurt and was not identified. He said there was no damage to the vehicle, which was pulled from a ditch and driven away. He said no citations were issued.

Wilfore says the accident occurred when the GMC Yukon being driven by Khloe Kardashian hit a patch of black ice and slid off the road on a two-lane road.

Kim Kardashian's publicist said Saturday afternoon that the sisters "are OK."

Daughter asks to be relieved of obligation to visit her dad

DEAR ABBY: I am a divorced woman with a teenaged daughter. I maintain a good relationship with my ex-husband and his family, and still consider them my family.

The problem is, my ex and our daughter have a strained relationship, mostly because he makes little effort to spend time with her. He doesn't attend her school functions, and most of the time when she's with him he's sleeping or watching TV. She is also sick of the multiple girlfriends that cycle in and out of his life. He doesn't realize how much these things affect her.

She has asked me not to make her see him anymore. She's 15, and I'm unsure if the law allows her to make that decision, but I think it's unwise and she would regret it later. I also worry that everyone in the family will blame me, and my relationship with them will be strained.

I don't know if I should just tell him she won't be coming to his house anymore or if I should continue to make her go. I'm not sure he really cares. I'd appreciate any advice.

WORRIED MOM IN ARKANSAS

DEAR WORRIED MOM: Have you discussed this with your ex? If you have and nothing has changed, then I don't think you should force your daughter to go any longer. But check with a lawyer to be sure about the law in your state.

When daughters are ignored the way yours has been, they begin to think there's something wrong with themselves—that they deserve it. It can have a lasting negative impact on a girl's self-esteem, which is not healthy. That she no longer wants to be subjected to it is understandable.

If you're afraid your former in-laws will blame you, tell them what you have told me. Whether your ex cares or is relieved is something no one can know until she doesn't show up, and I sincerely doubt she'll have any regrets about not having to tolerate those distasteful visits later on.

DEAR ABBY: My social circle includes a woman who has problems in restaurants. Something comes over her in this environment—either the waiter is ignoring her, the order is taking too long, she wants to tweak the menu to her liking, the cost is too high or there's a mistake on the bill. There is no end to it.

One night she didn't like the salad, so she picked up bits of it and tossed them on the table. Needless to say, no one wants to go out with her anymore. Her husband, however, is a great guy. When we mentioned this to him, he replied, "You've noticed it, too?"

Have you heard of this? What's wrong with her? She is strong-willed in most things, but the restaurant scene is her extreme. Any light you can shed on this would be most appreciated.

LOST MY APPETITE IN INDIANA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR LOST: Having never met the woman, it's hard to pinpoint what may be wrong. She may have OCD, be easily frustrated, or be displacing anger or frustration about something else onto the servers who cannot defend themselves.

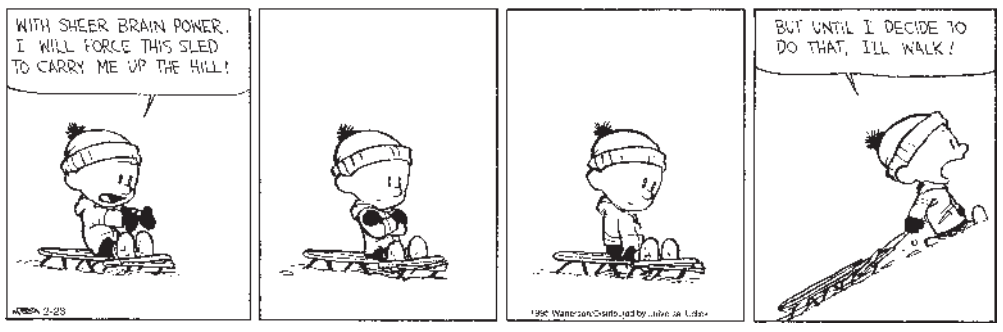
Frankly, the woman sounds like a pain in the posterior, and because she makes a habit of making those around her uncomfortable, I'm having trouble understanding why you continue to socialize with them. Many people wouldn't. Perhaps the husbands can arrange to see him socially without her being present.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

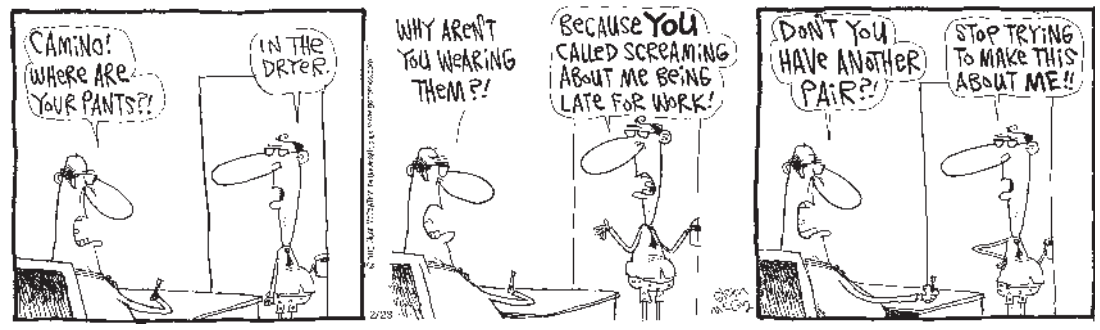
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HEY, ADAM.
HI, ANDRE.
CAN I OFFER YOU A SKINNY LATTE? MAYBE A NON-FAT YOGURT?
I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE DOING THIS TO HELP ME, ANDRE, BUT I DON'T LIKE IT.
YOU MIGHT ENJOY IT, ADAM.
FINE. A LATTE AND A YOGURT. HOLD THE JOY AND PLEASURE.
HARRELL
2-23

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


CAMINO! WHERE ARE YOUR PANTS?!
IN THE DRYER.
WHY AREN'T YOU WEARING THEM?!
BECAUSE YOU CALLED SCREAMING ABOUT ME BEING LATE FOR WORK!
DON'T YOU HAVE ANOTHER PAIR?!
STOP TRYING TO MAKE THIS ABOUT ME!!
2/23

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

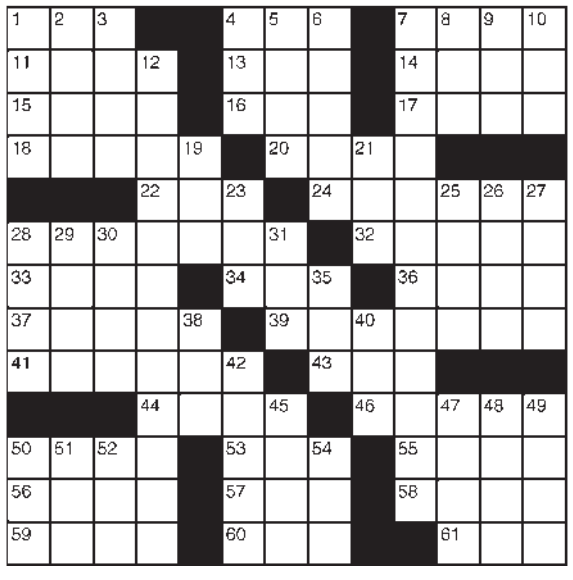
ACROSS
1 Incorrect
4 "Scandal" network
7 Young tulip?
11 Equestrian game
13 Scrooge's cry
14 Black-and-white cookie
15 Basin accessory
16 Blackbird
17 One
18 Pristine
20 Singer Campbell
22 Pinch
24 Completely
28 Used mouthwash
32 Pancake topper
33 Author James
34 Wrigley product
36 "... oh, where can —?"
37 Support
39 Disarmed a bomb
41 Pago Pago dweller
43 Pale
44 Beehive State
46 Desolate
50 "So be it"
53 Total
55 Squared away
56 Work in the mailroom
57 Get older
58 Carnival attraction
59 Move back and forth
60 Lower limb
61 Buck's mate

DOWN
1 Oil-cartel acronym
2 Poultry
3 Run away
4 "The — Daba Honeymoon"
5 "Pow!"
6 Tex-Mex entree
7 Seeker of fugitives
8 Spigoted vessel
9 Floral neckwear
10 Automaton, for short
12 Anaheim is there
19 Zero
21 Type measures
23 Dowel
25 Raw rocks
26 Oil paint container
27 Newspaper pg.
28 Chatters
29 Taj Mahal city
30 Paper quantity
31 Flop
35 Kitten's call
38 Nosh
40 Mis' neighbors
42 Twangy
45 Ginormous
47 Eager
48 Start over
49 Dandling site
50 Donkey
51 Do lawnwork
52 Historic time
54 "Family Guy" daughter

Solution time: 26 mins.

P	E	D	R	O		C	P	A		W	E	T
A	T	E	A	M		R	E	P		A	V	E
C	A	R	V	E		E	N	E	A	G	E	D
		A	E	G	C	A	N		M	E	N	D
B	O	N		A	N	T		G	A	S	S	Y
R	I	G	S		J	E	W	E	L			
A	L	E	P	P	O		A	M	I	G	O	S
			R	O	Y	A	I		T	R	M	A
H	A	B		T		B	E	G		E	G	G
O	N	I			V	I	S	I	O	N		
A	N	G	E	R	E	D		S	P	A	S	M
R	I	O		A	G	E		M	E	D	E	A
Y	E	T		W	A	S		O	C	E	A	N

Friday's answer 2-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dakota Fanning, 21; Kristin Davis, 50; Patricia Richardson, 64; Peter Fonda, 75.

Happy Birthday: Check out different philosophies and lifestyles, but don't be fooled by someone who makes unrealistic promises. Finding a suitable way to make the most of your talents will require making changes that require thought and effort. Being receptive to suggestions will also encourage others to offer the support you need to discover and reach your goals. Your numbers are 4, 14, 21, 26, 33, 37, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You have the energy and the discipline to take over and show how valuable you are. Don't wait for others to pitch in. Take initiative when opportunity knocks, and you will get a chance to move into a better position. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): A situation will get blown out of proportion if you let your emotions take over. Keep your thoughts to yourself and be mindful of others. Focus on stabilizing important partnerships. A commitment or promise will lead to positive results. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Make things happen. Get involved and show your concern. Be a spokesperson for those less able, and you will bring about changes that offer improvements as well as recognition. This is your chance to prove how valuable you are. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Watch your back. When it comes to your reputation in your residential community or at work, you will look bad if you are stubborn. Look at every side of a situation and try to find common ground with others. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You are on the mark when it comes to being where the action is. Your dynamic personality coupled with your go-getter attitude will put you in a position of opportunity. Speak up and you will get your way. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take advantage of an opportunity involving a creative project. Offer your skills, knowledge and time instead of your cash. A partnership will interest you, but it may not be as rosy as it appears. Proceed with caution. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You have a better handle on a personal situation than you realize. Speak up and make a motion to bring about the change you feel will improve your situation at home, work or within a relationship. Take charge. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't waste time trying to figure out what others are trying to do. Take a direction that you find interesting, challenging and inspirational. Doing things differently will give you the upper hand. Don't overreact or you will miss an opportunity. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Making positive changes at home will make your life easier. Love is in the stars, and enjoying time with someone special will have its benefits. It's what you do and say that will count, not what you spend. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't be rigid or you will encounter difficult situations. Move forward with your ideas without being pushy or expecting help from others. Taking your time and working alone will bring satisfaction. Say little, but do a lot. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take a walk down memory lane. Reconnect with old ideas, friends and activities, and you will rediscover how you can incorporate your talents into a moneymaking venture. Love and romance are in the stars. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Discipline will be required in order to reach your goals. Rely on your intuition to help you make the right choices regarding a work-related incident. Someone from your past will offer a workable solution. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are receptive, engaging and optimistic. You are entertaining and imaginative.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4	6	9	2	1		
	5		8		1		4	
1								7
3	1						7	4
9				6				1
4	6						9	2
5								8
	4		2		3		5	
		2	4	5	7	3		

Difficulty Level ★ 2/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

9	8	7	5	2	3	4	6	1
4	1	3	8	7	6	5	2	9
6	5	2	9	1	4	8	3	7
2	3	5	1	4	9	6	7	8
1	4	6	7	5	8	2	9	3
8	7	9	3	6	2	1	4	5
7	2	1	4	3	5	9	8	6
5	6	8	2	9	7	3	1	4
3	9	4	6	8	1	7	5	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/23

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TALKING NUMBERS Solution: 5 letters

B	C	L	S	E	D	O	C	L	A	T	O	T	O	L
O	U	M	A	S	S	O	A	P	S	C	Y	N	N	A
N	Y	D	U	E	S	I	P	E	I	R	T	O	E	M
D	G	R	G	T	R	L	R	T	T	S	I	I	G	I
S	O	A	O	E	I	E	E	E	G	T	D	T	A	C
C	L	E	S	E	T	M	M	N	A	I	U	I	T	E
I	O	N	D	N	H	O	I	C	N	G	A	D	I	D
T	P	I	I	T	N	T	I	V	E	I	Ⓢ	D	V	I
A	O	L	I	O	N	L	E	O	N	D	Ⓤ	A	E	V
M	T	R	G	U	P	S	M	A	N	N	Ⓜ	E	S	I
E	A	I	O	I	T	E	T	U	T	H	Ⓢ	Q	E	S
H	R	C	T	M	T	U	F	E	R	U	P	U	C	I
T	C	L	E	R	R	E	G	E	T	N	I	A	I	O
A	U	N	Y	A	N	A	L	Y	S	I	S	L	R	N
M	T	E	L	E	P	H	O	N	E	M	I	R	P	G

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Last Friday's Answer: Greenery

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Pelicans lose Davis and Anderson, roll past Heat

MIAMI (AP)—Eric Gordon scored 16 of his 24 points in the third quarter and, even after losing Anthony Davis and Ryan Anderson to injuries, the New Orleans Pelicans had no trouble beating the Miami Heat 105-91 on Saturday night.

Omer Asik scored 15 points and Tyreke Evans added 13 to help the Pelicans snap a four-game slide.

Mario Chalmers scored 20 points for Miami, which was playing for the first time since learning that All-Star forward Chris Bosh will miss the remainder of the season with blood clots on one of his lungs. The Heat made that announcement earlier Saturday.

"It's been very emotional for all of us," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

Dwyane Wade scored 19 points and Hassan Whiteside finished with 11 points and 16 rebounds for the Heat, who kept the No. 7 spot in the Eastern Conference standings despite the loss.

Goran Dragic, making his Miami debut after being acquired in a trade from Phoenix, had 12 points. He got a crash-course in the Heat playbook about three hours before the game.

For the Pelicans, it was a night where a game was won and two players were lost.

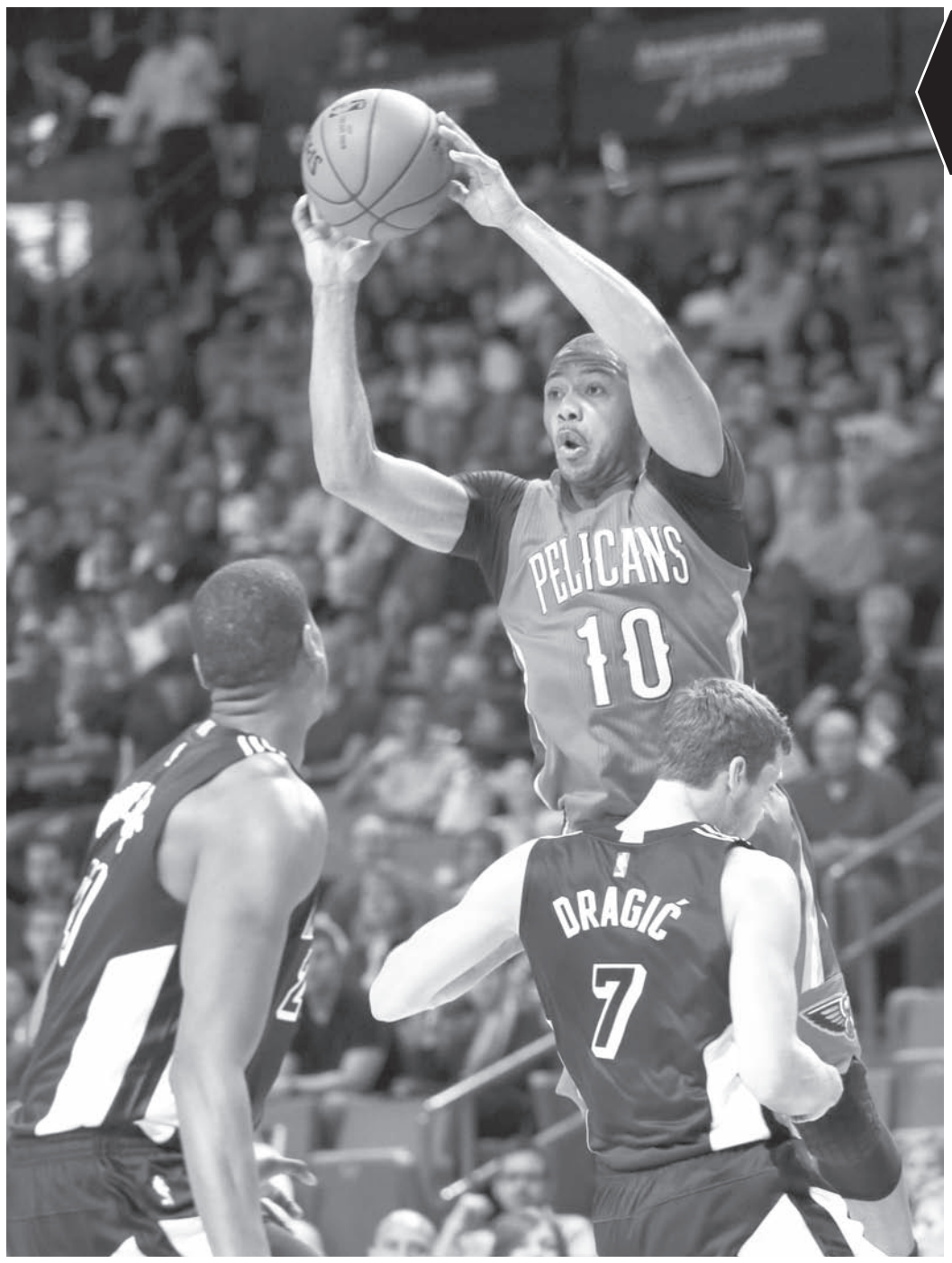
Davis departed with 3:07 left in the first quarter, moments after he attempted a shot and made contact with Miami's Hassan Whiteside. Davis—who missed two games earlier this month, plus the All-Star Game because of the shoulder issue—immediately grimaced in pain, then hobbled off the court while grabbing the shoulder even before play could be stopped.

The NBA's No. 4 scorer coming into the night at 24.3 points per game, Davis finished with six points and six rebounds.

Anderson was ruled out shortly before halftime after spraining his right knee jostling for a rebound.

Up 10 at the half, New Orleans put the game away by outscoring Miami 33-23 in the third quarter.

Dragic, who was scoreless in the first half, made all four of his shots in that period for Miami—but Gordon was 5 for 7 from the floor for the Pelicans, including 4 for 4 from 3-point range.



AP
New Orleans Pelicans guard Eric Gordon (10) prepares to pass against the Miami Heat in the first half of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015.

Thunder 110, Hornets 103

In Charlotte, N.C., Russell Westbrook had 33 points and 10 assists and Oklahoma City beat Charlotte for its fifth straight victory.

With Kevin Durant sidelined by soreness in his right foot, Westbrook was 12 of 27 from the field and t 9 of 9 from the foul line, stretching his streak of consecutive free throws to 43.

Serge Ibaka had 16 points and 12 rebounds, and Enes-Kanter had 10 points and 13 rebounds in his first game with the Thunder. Al Jefferson had 20 points and 12 rebounds, and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist had a season-high 20 points for Charlotte.

Clippers 126, Kings 99

In Los Angeles, J.J. Redick scored 24 points, hitting four 3-pointers and all eight of his free throws, and Los Angeles routed Sacramento for its fourth straight victory.

Austin Rivers had a career-high 28 points and fellow reserve Jamal Crawford added 23 to help the Clippers improve to 4-1 without injured All-Star Blake Griffin. DeAndre Jordan had 11 points and 15 rebounds.

DeMarcus Cousins scored 21 points for the Kings. Coach George Karl was tagged with his first loss after winning his debut against Boston on Friday night.

Rockets 98, Raptors 76

In Houston, Corey Brewer had a season-high 26 points, James Harden scored 16 of his 20 points in Houston's big third quarter and the Rockets cruised past Toronto.

Harden, the NBA scoring leader, got off to a tough start and had just four points by halftime. The Rockets led by four with less than 4 minutes left in the third before going on a 12-1 run, with seven points from Harden, to take a 68-53 lead into the fourth and end his night.

A night after handling Atlanta 105-80, the Raptors had a chance to extend their road winning streak to a franchise-record six games. Instead they were done in by 23 turnovers to snap a four-game winning streak overall and lose away from home for the first time since Jan. 21.

James Johnson led Toronto with 27 points.

Bulls 112, Suns 107

In Chicago, Pau Gasol had 22 points and 14 rebounds and Chicago beat revamped Phoenix for its fifth victory in six games.

Jimmy Butler added 19 points, Derrick Rose had 16, Mike Dunleavy Jr. 15, and Taj Gibson and Aaron Brooks came on strong in the fourth quarter to finish with 12 points apiece.

P.J. Tucker led Phoenix with 20 points. Marcus Morris scored 17 points. Eric Bledsoe had 13, and so did Brandon Knight in his Suns debut. Phoenix lost for the seventh time in eight games.

Heat say Chris Bosh will miss remainder of the season

MIAMI (AP)—Not even a week ago, Chris Bosh was talking about how eager he was to get home in an effort to turn the Miami Heat's season around.

His focus will be on something far more important now.

The All-Star forward's season is over, with the Heat announcing Saturday that—as suspected—blood clots were found on one of his lungs. The problem, if it had not been caught, could have killed the 30-year-old Bosh, who had been fighting pain in his side and back for several days.

"He was able to get in front of it early," Heat guard Dwyane Wade said, adding that Bosh's wife, Adrienne, encouraged him to get checked out when the problem wouldn't subside. "That's the good thing that helps all of us sleep at night."

The team said Bosh "is receiving care under the guidance of Miami Heat team physicians" at a hospital, adding that "his prognosis is good."

Bosh posted a photo on social media accounts Saturday night showing him in a hospital gown and bed, with an oxygen tube.

"Thank you for all the messages, love, and support. It has truly lifted my spirits through this tough process," Bosh wrote, adding several hashtags including one that read "Iwillbebacksoon.

Heat coach Erik Spoelstra sounded upbeat about Bosh's road to recovery. The team received the news Saturday morning, Spoelstra said, and welcomed the clarity after a frightening couple of days.

"His health will be restored," Spoelstra said before Miami's 105-91 home loss to New Orleans. "That's the most important thing. That's bigger than basketball."

Spoelstra and Wade visited Bosh on Saturday.

"It's been very emotional for all of us," Spoelstra said. "I was in constant contact with CB. But he didn't know either until they were able to go through all the tests and see all the specialists. ... I can't imagine how tough it was for Chris and Adrienne."

Bosh is the second NBA player whose final game this season was the All-Star Game. New York's Carmelo Anthony was shut down for knee surgery earlier in the week, a move that was long expected.

Bosh's situation was anything but. It was nothing short of a shock to the Heat, who entered Saturday with a 23-30 record and holding onto the No. 7 spot in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Losing him becomes the latest—and by far the biggest—blow in a season filled with tumult for the Heat, reminiscent in some ways to when All-Star center Alonzo Mourning was forced to miss most of Miami's 2000-01 season because of a kidney disease that eventually necessitated a transplant.

Mourning was able to return, and helped the Heat win the 2006 NBA title. Spoelstra stressed that any talk of when Bosh can resume play can wait.

"We're not even thinking about that right now," Spoelstra said. "The most important thing is he'll be healthy again. We'll get a game plan as we continue to get more information."

Bosh averaged 21.1 points and 7 rebounds for the Heat this season, his first in a five-year deal signed this past summer that will pay him $118 million.

Bosh was part of the ballyhooed free-agent haul Miami landed in 2010, when he and LeBron James were brought in to play alongside Wade and form one of the most star-studded trios in league history.

They were together four seasons, the breakup coming this past summer when James elected to go back to Cleveland. They went to the NBA Finals four times, winning two rings, the second of those in 2013 when Bosh made two plays that will forever be etched in Heat history.

On the 3-pointer that Ray Allen hit with 5.2 seconds left of Game 6 of that year's NBA Finals against San Antonio, it was Bosh who fended off Manu Ginobili for the offensive rebound and found Allen backtracking toward the right corner for the tying shot. And to end that game, Bosh blocked Danny Green's potentially game-tying 3-point try as the overtime clock expired.

Those were the glory days. This year has been a far cry, one where the Heat have constantly fought injury and illness, with a constant string of different lineups being assembled.

"What you're seeing now is a group that's becoming more resilient every single day because of all these adversities," Spoelstra said.

In cases like these, it's common for the clots to have worked their way from the legs to the lungs, a dangerous occurrence. Just days ago, such a medical event led to the sudden death of former NBA star Jerome Kersey, who was only 52 and showed no signs of trouble.

Last month, Brooklyn forward Mirza Teletovic was ruled out for the season once clots were found on his lungs. Cleveland's Anderson Varejao went through a similar situation and missed most of the 2012-13 season.

"It probably hasn't hit him yet that he's going to miss the entire season," Wade said. "But right now that's the furthest thing from his mind and all of our minds."

Many athletes have dealt with clots and eventually returned, some better than ever. But the road to recovery is often long, starting with blood-thinning medication being prescribed—and those on that typically have to clear many hurdles before they can resume regular activity.

"Get well soon (at)chrisbosh you will come back stronger than ever," Heat managing general partner Micky Arison wrote on Twitter. "Your future is very bright."

Winston shows off strong arm, but Mariota has faster feet

AP
Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota (11) and Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston (15) wait to run a drill at the NFL football scouting combine in Indianapolis, Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015.

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Florida State's Jameis Winston showed Saturday there's nothing wrong with his throwing shoulder.

On Saturday in Indianapolis, he threw with zip and accuracy—posting the most impressive performance in a six-quarterback group that included Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Mariota. Winston, the 2013 Heisman winner, and Mariota are presumed to be vying to go No. 1 in the April draft.

"I think he throws an extremely catchable ball. Has all the arm strength you want, but he makes it easy for the receiver based on the route," NFL Network draft analyst Mike Mayock said. "He understands that, he gets it."

The workouts came one day after ESPN reported doctors were rechecking Winston's throwing shoulder for weakness, and the best news of all may have been that Winston said his right arm felt great.

He didn't even ice the arm following the workout.

"I actually feel good," Winston told NFL Network following the workout. "The thing is they actually (put a) shot in my shoulder and made it sore a little bit. I was like `You all tried to do that. I've done had this shoulder my whole life and you're going to make it sore.'"

Most of the quarterbacks, running backs and receivers spoke to the media Thursday. Winston came in Friday because of the longer-than-expected medical exam. Players are not usually available to most media members following drills.

Mariota threw well, too, but wasn't quite as accurate as Winston.

The Oregon quarterback had the fastest 40-yard dash time among all 15 quarterbacks, 4.52 seconds, and finished ahead of Winston in the vertical jump (36 inches to 28.5) and the broad jump (10-1 to 8-7).

But he didn't get quite the same endorsement from Mayock.

"You can see how athletic he is and you can see that translate to his drop backs now, a sense of urgency with his feet," Mayock said. "I know he will be able to adapt to being able to get under center. It's the pocket awareness part you can't see out here. Physically, he's able to do all the things they ask him."

Mariota said he did chat informally with former Oregon coach Chip Kelly, who is now with the Eagles. By mid-afternoon Saturday, Mariota said he had not had any formal meetings with Philadelphia, who are believed to have interest in Mariota and may be willing to trade up in the draft to get him.

Winston didn't just look healthy, he appeared to be at ease on the Lucas Oil Stadium turf.

After completing the workout, Winston traded high-fives with other competitors and the six quarterbacks in the group photo got together for a photo on the field.

Winston did struggle in the 40, clocking a surprisingly slow 4.97 and 4.99 on his two tries. That was barely ahead of the fastest offensive lineman, 307-pound Ali Marpet, who ran 4.98 on Friday.

"The interviews for me were enjoyable because I was able to show some of the knowledge that I learned at Oregon," Mariota said, adding that Kelly made no promise of making a move to get him.

Alabama-Birmingham receiver J.J. Nelson had the fastest overall 40, a 4.28, falling just short of Chris Johnson's combine record of 4.24. Miami's Phillip Dorsett was next at 4.33. West Virginia receiver Kevin White certainly helped his case by running a 4.35, while Alabama's Amari Cooper was clocked at 4.42.

Heisman Trophy finalist Melvin Gordon had the fifth-fastest time among running backs at 4.52. Michigan State's Jeremy Langford was No. 1 at 4.42.

Three NFL teams in Los Angeles? Not viable, experts say

CARSON, Calif. (AP)—Los Angeles is the hottest market for new stadiums in the country—and the NFL teams that could come with them—but the possibility that three teams will kick off in the region is a football fantasy, experts say.

The Oakland Raiders, the San Diego Chargers and the St. Louis Rams each have gained a foothold in the LA area. The Raiders and Chargers announced Thursday that they are planning a shared stadium in Carson, in the Los Angeles suburbs, if both teams fail to get new stadiums in their current hometowns. Rams owner Stan Kroenke is part of a venture that wants to build an 80,000-seat stadium nearby, in Inglewood.

But the sudden rush to LA is tempered by a 20-year history of disappointment for fans—stadium proposals, complete with architectural renderings, have come and gone since the Rams and the Raiders fled Southern California after the 1994 season.

Scheduling games is just one snag that would make the notion of three teams in the region unfeasible. The Chargers-Raiders plan creates the odd prospect of divisional rivals suddenly sharing a home field.

"There is no reason to believe there are three teams moving there. There is not even a reason to believe one team is moving there. They are not done deals," warned Victor Matheson, a specialist in sports economics who teaches at the College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts.

Football is a business. Each team can now return to its home market and say, "We have a deal set up to move. Make me a better one to stay," Matheson added.

That was echoed by Chicago-based sports finance consultant Marc Ganis, who said three teams would slice up the market far too finely to make it work. Managing TV broadcasting alone would pose a problem.

"No chance," Ganis said, when asked about three teams settling in LA. "There are some people who have had some doubts if the LA market will support one team. Some have even greater doubts it can support two teams. It certainly will not host three teams."

Earlier this month, the NFL sent a memo warning teams that the league itself will be behind any decision to move to the Los Angeles area, and established a committee of owners to review the options.

Among the failed proposals of the past: In the late 1980s, the small city of Irwindale, 20 miles east of Los Angeles, gave then-Raiders owner Al Davis $10 million to show its good faith in pursuing a plan to turn a gravel pit into a 65,000-seat stadium. But the plan stalled; Irwindale never got back a penny.

The notion that Southern California might be getting used—again—as a negotiating wedge by NFL teams came up Friday at a public celebration in Carson, where a community group including labor unions is pushing the joint Chargers-Raiders stadium that would be built there.

A jubilant Rep. Janice Hahn, D-Calif., said Carson would welcome the Raiders and Chargers "with open arms." But she also recalled, "I know we've gone down this road before with NFL teams."

A statement Thursday from the Raiders and Chargers said the teams have tried and failed for years to find stadium solutions in Oakland and San Diego.

"We are pursuing this stadium option in Carson for one straightforward reason," the statement said. "If we cannot find a permanent solution in our home markets, we have no alternative but to preserve other options to guarantee the future economic viability of our franchises."

Scott McKibben, the newly appointed executive director of the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum Authority, said he was confident the Raiders would stay in Oakland.

"Moving franchises is not easy, and it's not something owners like to do," he said. "There are branding issues, sponsorship issues, relocation issues, going in and sharing a market that hasn't had an NFL team in 20 years and then having to split it with somebody else. Is it an option they have? Yes. But I think the one they really want is to be here."

Two other stadiums have been proposed in the Los Angeles area. In downtown Los Angeles, the stadium known as Farmers Field now becomes a long shot with no apparent team to move in. The other, in the city of Industry, appears to have faded from contention.

Carroll remains hopeful Marshawn Lynch will return to the Seahawks

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Seahawks coach Pete Carroll put the ball right in Marshawn Lynch's hands Friday.

Yes, he wants his top runner to come back and make another Super Bowl run next season.

A day after general manager John Schneider said he wouldn't be "shocked" if Lynch retired, Carroll put on a full-court press.

"He has been an integral part of our program for five years and loved the contribution he has brought," Carroll said. "We would really like to move at that swiftly, it's such a big deal as it has always been to get our lead players intact so we are working at that now."

The 28-year-old running back is reportedly contemplating retirement despite having one more year on his contract at $7 million.

Why would he leave?

Lynch wants a long-term deal in a league that doesn't put much value in running backs over 30 years old.

Then, in this month's Super Bowl loss to New England, the Seahawks threw the ball in a goal-line situation rather than give it to their big back and the pass was picked off, sealing Seattle's fate.

Carroll tried to turn the page on that chapter at the NFL's annual scouting combine in Indianapolis and thanked Patriots coach Bill Belichick for offering his support on the decision.

"I care. We all care about that. And Bill is an extraordinary coach, anything he says people should listen to," Carroll said. "In this case, he's just respecting coaching. He understands the game. He knows what was going on, exactly. ... For him to take the moment to do that, it's very gracious of him."

Seattle is ready to move on from that forgettable play.

Nothing would help more than starting next season with Lynch in the backfield.

"We have been in earnest a great deal of time now negotiating to get Marshawn back with us in every way that we can," Carroll said. "It's been an ongoing, long process and we have had big offers out and we continue to work with that. We are excited about the future."

Goosen keeps the lead at Riviera

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Retief Goosen had gone so long without being in contention on the weekend that he wondered how his nerves would hold up. They were tested Saturday at Riviera, and the two-time U.S. Open champion earned a passing grade.

Even though he made only two pars on the back nine, and twice faced tough putts just to save bogey, Goosen never lost the lead. He finished with a chip-in for birdie, reached the par-5 17th in two for another birdie and had a 2-under 69 to build a two-shot lead in the Northern Trust Open.

"It wasn't easy out there for me," Goosen said. "Mentally, I had to work hard to try and stay positive and focused. But I'm still in the lead, so that's a good place to be. Just try and play solid tomorrow and keep the putter warm and see what happens."

Sunday is the final exam.

The South African is 46 and coming up on the six-year anniversary of his last win. He was two shots ahead of Graham DeLaet of Canada, who had a 70, with a host of contenders within four shots—Sergio Garcia, Dustin Johnson, Jim Furyk, Jordan Spieth, Angel Cabrera, defending champion Bubba Watson, and even Vijay Singh, who turns 52 on Sunday.

Gooden had disk replacement surgery in 2012 when protein injections didn't work, and feared his career might be over. Now he has a second chance.

"This would be an awesome win," Goosen said. "It's been awhile since I had a chance to win. Yeah, this would ... feel like a U.S. Open, a third U.S. Open, for me winning this week. I'm going to give it my all tomorrow and fight hard and we'll see what happens."

He was at 8-under 205.

DeLaet caught Goosen with an eagle on the opening hole, fell back with consecutive bogeys and did his best to stay close. He will be in the final group with Goosen and Bae Sang-Moon, who matched the best score of the week with a 66 and was three shots behind. DeLaet, going for his first win, thinks that might help being with Goosen.

"He's a great guy to play with, especially under pressure circumstances, because you can just kind of look at him and see how cool and collected he is with that silky-smooth bomb that he hits off the tee," DeLaet said. "I'm a little bit more of an emotional player than that, but I've learned over the years to not get too amped up or too down low. I think playing with him is a good way to just keep the calm and just go about business."

Bae was in a large group at 5-under 208 that include Garcia, whose remarkable par on the 13th hole was set up by a 3-iron from a bunker behind the 10th green.

16 teams sign up for Rocball League

Saipan's Rocball League will open its second competition this year with 16 teams made up of students from Marianas High School signing up for the contest.

Dream Team leads the list of participants and will be joined by Red Eyes, Namacki, Asian & White Boys, Bang Bang Coconut Gang, Question?, Mwas, G.O.M.D., Rookies, Fan Chance, Oba Squirt, Oba Wetz, Super 8, Islanders, Black Magic, and Krew.

A series of practice matches will be played starting today to give squads time to prepare for this year's competition. Scrimmages will begin at 1pm and each match will only be played for two sets with the first team to either score 12 points or a goal winning the set. In case of an overtime, the extension will only be a race-to-6 points or the first team to hit a goal wins the do-or-die OT.

Today, Dream Team takes on Red Eyes, while Namacki challenges Asian & White Guys in the second match. Other pair of matches set this weekend are Bang Bang Coconut Gang vs. Question and Mwas vs. G.O.M.D. on Feb 24; Rookies vs. Fan Chance and Oba Squirt vs. Oba Wetz on Feb. 25; and Super 8 vs. Islanders and Black Magic vs. Krew on Feb. 27.

The Teachers ruled the first competition of the league this season, outlasting the Veterans in a best-of-five title series, 3-2. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

Papelbon: `I would go anywhere that wants me'

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP)—Jonathan Papelbon won a World Series ring with Boston in 2007 and was hoping to earn more when he signed a $50 million, four-year contract with Philadelphia, a record deal for a relief pitcher.

He has yet to play in a playoff game with the Phillies. Since he arrived, Philadelphia has not finished a season with a winning record.

"I would go anywhere that wants me," the 34-year-old right-hander said Friday following the second day of workouts for Phillies pitchers and catchers at spring training. "If Philadelphia still wants me and they want me to be a piece of this puzzle and continue to be a leader in this bullpen, I love my chances of staying here and competing. But if Toronto wants me, if Milwaukee wants me, whoever wants me, they're going to get someone who knows how to compete and go play ball and lay it on the line. That's basically what it boils down to for me."

Philadelphia has said it would trade starter Cole Hamels for the right deal. Papelbon has some control over his situation because of a limited no-trade clause: He can block deals to 17 teams.

Papelbon is looking for an indication of the team's direction from president Pat Gillick, general manager Ruben Amaro Jr. and manager Ryne Sandberg.

"I'm still not so sold on this entire rebuilding," Papelbon said. "I know that that's one of the things that myself and some of the veterans that are going to be coming into camp want to probably sit down with Pat and Ruben and Ryno and and say, `Hey, you know. Let's get a little bit better feel on the state of the organization and let's come up with a plan and go one way or the other.' I just think we're kind of in limbo now. Spring training is going to be able to dictate that.'"

His contract includes a $13 million option for 2016 that would become guaranteed if he has 48 games finished this year and is not on the disabled list at the end of the season with a shoulder or elbow injury. He was suspended seven games and fined by Major League Baseball in September for making a lewd gesture during a game and then bumping an umpire.

"No, I don't have any regrets at all coming here," Papelbon said. "I get to play in an intense environment every day. I was the highest-paid closer in baseball. Why would I regret any of that?"

Among the Phillies' veteran core, only shortstop Jimmy Rollins was traded during the off-season. Hamels and left-hander Cliff Lee remain along with first baseman Ryan Howard—and their large salaries.

The production of Howard, Utley, Lee and catcher Carlos Ruiz have diminished in recent seasons.

"I think the biggest thing that a lot of people aren't seeing is that Philadelphia still has some great players," Papelbon said. "Are we getting old? Do we need to make adjustments? Well, everybody has to do that at certain points of their career. I still think we can compete. Is that crazy for me to think that? You tell me."

COMETS

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the seventh that drove in Winfield Ada. Pangelinan blasted an RBI double in the third to score Aldan.

Jordan Babauta and C.J. Kaipat went 2-for-4 to become the lone bright spots for the Docomo-backed squad.

Babauta had an RBI single to bring in Ohane Borja, who walked, in the first inning where Ol'Aces scored all four runs.

Kaipat scored one run and also had an RBI single, driving in Trevon Lieto, who got on base on catcher Devon Pangelinan's throwing error.

Camacho pitched three innings in relief for the Red Sox giving up one earned run on two hits while striking out seven and walking three.

Orren Cruz lasted four innings allowing two runs, both earned, on four hits with five strikeouts and five walks.

Little Legals 5, As Matuis Twins 3

Gunner Sablan played solidly to help the Little Legals in beating the As Matuis Twins.

Sablan blasted a triple in the fourth and later scored on a Delvin Cabrera RBI single. He pitched four innings in start allowing one run on three hits, while fanning six and walking three.

Sean Rabauliman closed out of the Legals giving up one earned run on one hit, a triple to Nixon Smith that drove in Elray Castro, who walked. Rabauliman also struck out five batters and walked one.

JUNIOR DIVISION
Fielders 13, Red Sox 1

The Fielders used a nine-run second inning to trounce the Red Sox.

Sho Taguchi tossed a no-hitter for five complete innings with four strikeouts and seven walks. He forced Red Sox batters to grounders, line drives, and fly outs.

The defense was also busy, doing their share by stranding base runners either by put out plays or catching fly balls.

Shortstop Don Ada and Jose Camacho's inside-the-park home runs highlighted that nine-run second inning. Ada went 3-for-4 with a triple in the first inning that drove in Tyrese Camacho.

Christian Alepuyo scored the lone run for the Red Sox. He got on base on an error by Ada and scored on another error by second baseman Kimo Aingalen.

Falcons 15, Enforcers 5

Arby Yoquel pitched five complete innings giving up three earned runs on seven hits, with one strikeout and one walk in the Falcons' win cut short by the mercy rule.

Ace Evangelista went 3-for-5 with an RBI single in the second driving in Noel Cabrera, who had a triple.

Henry Aguon, 2-for-4, had a triple in the third and crossed home plate on a Joe Tudela RBI single. He scored two more runs including one in the Falcons' nine-run fifth inning rally.

Dennis Cabrera lasted four innings for the Enforcers innings giving up four earned runs on five hits, while striking out six and walking six more.

Lloyd Tarope tossed one inning in relief allowing two earned runs on five hits with three walks and no strikeouts.

SENIOR DIVISION
Red Sox 8, Enforcers 5

Jose Tyquienco went perfect at the plate and Nathan Camacho tossed a no-hitter in 4.1 innings in relief as the Red Sox defeated the Enforcers.

Tyquienco went 4-for-4 with one run, and four RBIs as the Red Sox defeated the Enforcers. He had a two-RBI single in the third.

Craig Aguon lasted 2 1/3 innings, giving up a triple to Franklin Lizama in the first that drove in Henry Lizama, who got on base on a fielder's choice.

Ethan Babauta also tripled for the Enforcers but was left stranded on base after Aguon struck out Nate Nogis and J.J. Chong.

Aguon gave up five earned runs on seven hits while fanning five and walking two. Nathan Camacho replaced him when Robby Solis was up to bat in the bottom of the third.

Camacho shutout the Enforcers while striking out seven and walking two batters that he faced.

MCFUN RUN

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Kaga (25:03) earned the same award in the girls division.

In the 20 to 29 age group, the top finishers were Will Schroeder and Pipit Ball, while Evangeline Tecson and Longuski ruled the women's 30 to 39. In the 40 to 49 division, Gary Bandoja and Jim won the men's category, while Alejo Sablan and Lyn Tenorio prevailed in the 50-and-over age group.

In the 10K division, Agape's Caleb Wang and Ronald Villafria joined Berger in the overall Top 3 rankings.

Wang also earned the top honors in the boys U19, while Conatsu Kaga triumphed in the girls division. Other top finishers in their respective age groups were 20 to 29's Steven Johnson; 30 to 39's Taro Kibo and Jennifer Cui, and 50-and-over's Chang Wang Jang.

Meanwhile, proceeds from the fun run will go to the Rotary's project on developing a family park in Kagman.

MAY 2

From Page 28

Mayweather said.

The long anticipated bout at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas will almost surely break every financial record, and make both boxers richer than ever. Mayweather could earn $120 million or more, while Pacquiao's split of the purse will likely be around $80 million.

The fight, which matches boxing's two biggest attractions of recent years, has been in the making for five years. It finally came together in recent months with both fighters putting aside past differences over various issues—including drug testing and television rights—to reach agreement.

Pacquiao was sleeping in the Philippines when the fight was announced, but his camp issued a statement saying the fans deserve the long awaited fight.

"It is an honor to be part of this historic event," Pacquiao said. "I dedicate this fight to all the fans who willed this fight to happen and, as always, to bring glory to the Philippines and my fellow Filipinos around the world."

While the fight rivals the 2002 heavyweight title bout between Lennox Lewis and Mike Tyson for interest, it comes more than five years after the first real effort to put the fighters together in their prime. Most boxing observers believe both have lost some of their skills, though Mayweather remains a master defensive fighter and Pacquiao showed in his last fight against Chris Algieri that he still has tremendous quickness in his hands.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDING

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	37	18	.673	—
Brooklyn	22	31	.415	14
Boston	20	32	.385	15½
Philadelphia	12	42	.222	24½
New York	10	44	.185	26½

Southeast Division

Atlanta	43	12	.782	—
Washington	33	22	.600	10
Miami	23	31	.426	19½
Charlotte	22	31	.415	20
Orlando	18	39	.316	26

Central Division

Chicago	35	21	.625	—
Cleveland	34	22	.607	1
Milwaukee	31	23	.574	3
Detroit	22	33	.400	12½
Indiana	22	33	.400	12½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	39	14	.736	—
Houston	37	18	.673	3
Dallas	37	20	.649	4
San Antonio	34	21	.618	6
New Orleans	28	27	.509	12

Northwest Division

Portland	36	18	.667	—
Oklahoma City	30	25	.545	6½
Denver	20	34	.370	16
Utah	20	34	.370	16
Minnesota	12	42	.222	24

Pacific Division

Golden State	43	9	.827	—
L.A. Clippers	37	19	.661	8
Phoenix	29	27	.518	16
Sacramento	19	35	.352	25
L.A. Lakers	13	41	.241	31

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 complete semis cast in Masters caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Armatech, KB Hite, and Bammy's Restaurant eliminated their playoff foes to make it to the semifinals of the 2015 Graphics Invitational Masters Basketball League.

Armatech and Bammy's routed the Slashers, 92-68, and Boomers, 73-91, respectively, last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium to join early semifinalist Blues Haus in the Final Four. KB Hite earlier bagged the second semis berth following an 89-82 victory over the Saipan Warriors last Friday.

KB Hite survived Saipan Warriors third-quarter rally to march into the next round of the seven-team league. KB Hite saw its 46-28 halftime lead sliced down to 3 at the end of the third, 62-59, as Mike Surima led the Saipan Warriors fight-back, scoring 14 points in that rally.

However, Saipan Warriors failed to complete the come-from-behind win, as Randy Mungcal and Marlon Sison stepped up in the fourth quarter. The duo drilled 17 of KB Hite's 20 points in the seven-minute stretch with Manny Duenas nailing the other 3 markers off a triple to keep the team's safe lead.

Saipan Warriors drew only one field goal and two free throws from Surima in the fourth to falter in their upset bid.

In the first game last Saturday, Armatech consistently score din the 20s in all four quarters to cruise to the win and oust the Slashers.

James Abuy paced Armatech with his 21 points, 9 of them came from downtown in the second quarter as his team turned a 21-14 advantage to a double-digit spread, 45-35. Bernard Montano and Bruce Berline also finished in twin digits with 15 and 12, respectively.

In the second game, Bammy's withstood the Boomers' third-quarter run, hitting fastbreak layups in the first few minutes of the fourth en route to the lopsided win.

Down by 14 at halftime, 35-49, the Boomers were back into business after moving within 6 at the end of the third canto, 57-63. Four players scored at least two baskets apiece for the Boomers in the third and they held Bammy's to 14 markers after the latter exploded for 32 in the second to stay in contention.

However, the Boomers gave up several fastbreak layups and open jumpers to Bammy's early in the fourth quarter, allowing the latter to stretch its lead. Jun Tabora and Alex Ocampo alternately knocked in the crucial baskets for Bammy's in the fourth.

Tabora led all scorers with his 34 points, while Ocampo added 21.

Meanwhile, the double-elimination semis round will start tonight with Blue Haus, which notched the first automatic Final Four slot after topping the regular season, taking on KB Hite at 6:30pm. In the second game, Armatech faces Bammy's.

FRIDAY

KB Hite 89– Mungcal 20, Pangelinan 12, Sison 11, Yalung 8, Demapan 6, Plinske 6, Duenas 6, Koebel 4, Verano 4, Montes 2.

Saipan Warriors 82 – Tiples 22, Surima 20, Mateo 16, Salazar 14, Abadilla 10.

Scoring by quarters: 23-12, 46-28, 59-62, 89-82.

SATURDAY
First Game

Armatech 92 – Abuy 25, Montano 15, Berline 12, Poquiz 8, Gabaldon 7, Park 5, Malasarte 2, Tolentino 2, Gatdula 2.

Slashers 68 – Tengco 18, S. Ebuen 13, Tibayan 12, Villasan 6, O. Ebuen 6, Abadilla 4, Leong 2, Farinas 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-14, 45-35, 66-51, 92-68.

Second Game

Bammy's 91 – D. Tabora 34, Ocampo 21, Zapata 9, De Guzman 8, Sampang 6, Saplan 4, Catalla 3.

Boomers 73 – Joson 14, Usi 14, Cortez 8, Salazar 6, Dela Cruz 5, Pablo 5, Buniag 3, Rodriguez 3, Anasan 2, Manipon 2, Conti 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-21, 49-35, 63-57, 91-73.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Bammy's Restaurant's Alex Ocampo goes over the back of the Boomers' Joe Rodriguez, left, and Resty Joson in this rebound play in the fourth quarter of their playoff game in then 2015 Graphics Invitational Masters Basketball League last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium

Rack 'N' Roll regains Thursday League lead

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Abyss Rack 'N' Roll regained the lead in the Budweiser-Saipan Billiards Association Thursday 8-Ball League.

Jerry Soriano won all three matches he played to help the Abyss-backed squad to a 9-6 decision over Jonny's Team SCS.

Rack 'N' Roll now holds a 20-10 record after three weeks of action to enjoy a two-game advantage over the Jokers Homeboyz (18-12).

The Homeboyz dropped to second after absorbing an 8-7 loss to the Barcode Hobbies Deadshot.

Marc Brian Nelvis and Frankie Blas, with their match-up tied at 7-7, delivered the win for the Deadshot after beating Nolan Cultura and Rolly Villanueva in the final partners 8-Ball event.

In other Thursday League games, the Abyss Titans also scored a 9-6 win over Route 33 Alamo Car Rental, while Wild Bill's breezed to a 12-3 victory against Smoke Pub Magic 8 Ball and the Barcode Breakers squeezed out an 8-7 triumph over the Jokers Wonderpool Aces.

In Week 3 action in the Tuesday League last Feb. 17, the Smoke Pub Armatech Hustlers and the Abyss Homeboyz II both escaped with 8-7 decisions over the Jokers Str8 Shooters and the Abyss Crazy 8, respectively, while the Smoke Pub Destroyers ambushed leaders Jokers IT&E Voyagers, 10-5.

The Voyagers, despite the loss, remained on top of the standings with a 21-9 slate followed by the 15-15 records of the Crazy 8 and Hustlers. The Str8 Shooters (14-16), Destroyers (13-17), and Homeboyz II (12-18) complete the standings.

Action continues tomorrow with the Voyagers battling the Hustlers, the Destroyers take on Crazy 8, while the Homeboyz collide with the Str8 Shooters.

In the Thursday League on Feb. 26, the Deadshot clash with the Wonderpool Aces, Magic 8 Ball faces the Rack 'N Roll, the Homeboyz meets Alamo Car Rental, the Titans battle Wild Bills, and Team SCS takes on the Barcode Breakers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of the Abyss Rack 'N' Roll and Jonny's Team SCS, left, enjoy a light moment before the start of their game in the Thursday Billiards League.

Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival unfurls this Feb. 26

The 23rd Annual Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival, officially sanctioned by the FIVB since 2008, is ready to roll from Feb. 26 to March 15. The Kids Cup in both Guam and Saipan has been moved to March 15, Sunday

The Festival is a combination of events that spans the generations and abilities of players. This year's event will have pro players from Japan, China, and the U.S.

The professionals from Japan are Erika Habaguchi, Samaa Miyagawa, Kosuke Sato, and Tsuchiya Takashi. Habaguchi is a returning three-time champion that now plays on the professional tour.

Rongrong Shen, Mentong Wang, Wuqin Lin, and Zequan Lu will be coming from China, and Paul Baxter, who will be shooting for a record fifth title, will be coming back from California to defend the men's title with Guam beach volleyball standout Misaki Cramer, who became the youngest ever champion last year.

This year the Festival kicks off with the main event, the Marianas Pro-Am Cup, to be held in Guam at Ypao Beach Park. The event starts with a free clinic conducted by the pros at 4pm on February 26. The clinic is open to all age groups to learn about the beach volleyball game.

Feb. 27 will feature an exhibition game between the pros from Japan and China beginning at 6pm.

Immediately following the exhibition will be a raffle in which some lucky amateur players will win a chance to play in the tournament with one of our visiting pro players. The main tournament will start on Feb. 28 with pool play. The top 16 teams will advance to the double elimination bracket on March 1.

"This is the biggest weekend of the year for our beach players from around the region," said Guam Volleyball Federation vice president Jon Cramer. "It gives them a good test of where their skill level is against pros and top amateurs from the neighboring islands."

The Festival continues with the Marianas Junior Cup to be held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa on Saipan on March 7 and 8. The Junior Cup is for players 19 years old and under, with both men's doubles and women's doubles teams.

March 7 will consist of pool play with the top 16 teams advancing to the double elimination bracket on March 8.

The final event is the Marianas Kids Cup to be held on March 14 in both Guam and Saipan. This event is a four-person co-ed event for U14 players. The Kids Cup will begin with pool play in the morning followed by a double elimination bracket in the afternoon. Last year's Kids' Cup had 48 players on Guam and over 100 on Saipan.

"The whole three weekends are about having fun and growing the sport. Many players come for the friendships that have been developed at Cup over the years. In fact, there are always several combinations of teams of people from different countries," said Cramer.

GVF is encouraging young players from Guam to go and compete against the strong pool of players on Saipan. While NMI Volleyball Association is encouraging Saipan volleyball players to represent in the ProAm Cup.

United Airlines is offering special rates for both Saipan players to attend the ProAm and the Guam players to attend the Junior Cup.

Registration forms can found at St. John's School Gym, GVF's Facebook page, Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival Page, NMIVA's website www.nmivolleyball.org, or email guamvolleyball@gmail.com or nmivolleyball@gmail.com.

Teams registering for the Pro-Am event must do so by 6pm on Feb. 22. Teams that register by Feb. 18 6pm will receive a $20 discount. In Guam, call Jon Cramer (727-4999) or Chris Shepherd (727-8443) for more information or in Saipan you can call Laurie Peterka (670) 483-7499.

GVBF would like to thank our current platinum level sponsors—GVB, United Airlines, PIC Guam, and GHD. NMIVA would like to thank Saipan's major sponsors—MVA, Fiesta Resort & Spa, DoCoMo Pacific and Practical Solutions LLC.

There is always room for more sponsors, contact Jon Cramer or Laurie Peterka for more details on sponsorship packages. ***(PR)***

Pelicans lose Davis and Anderson, roll past Heat

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Comets blitz past McDonald's in Majors

JON PEREZ
The Comets' Koby Deleon Guerrero pitches to McDonald's batter Johnny Santos in their game in the Major division of the Saipan Little League on Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan baseball field.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Damian Babauta and Kyle Deleon Guerrero each homered while Reid Teregeyo had a an impressive outing on the mound as the Comets blitzed past Team McDonald's, 31-3, in the Saipan Little League's Major division last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Baseball Field.

Babauta hit an inside-the-park solo shot in the third and the Comets comfortably ahead. He went 4-for-5 scoring five runs and was a triple shy of hitting the cycle after he also doubled in the third.

Deleon Guerrero also homered, a three-run shot in the Comets' 15-run first inning barrage while Teregeyo also had a perfect appearance at the plate, going 4-for-4 with a triple in the second and scored four runs.

Koby Deleon Guerrero only lasted 1/2 inning and was replaced by Teregeyo in the top of the first, with one out, after giving up four straight walks including an RBI walk to Deyren Hocog.

Teregeyo struck out Joel Deleon Guerrero and Delvin Ada to get out of the jam and in the process stranding the base runners of Team McDonald's.

Teregeyo pitched 3 1/2 shutout innings in relief holding McDonald's to two hits, while fanning seven and walking three batters.

The Comets peppered the bullpen of McDonald's—composed of Ada, Johnny Santos, and Sidney Sablan—with 14 hits giving up 15 walks while striking out four.

Red Sox 8, Docomo Ol'Aces 6

Kianna Aldan, Zachary Camacho, and Devon Pangelinan all went 2-for-4 in the Red Sox's win over the Docomo Ol'Aces.

Aldan, who struck out in the first, scored one run and had a double in the third, while Camacho had an RBI single in

See COMETS on Page 26

Nearly 200 join Rotary McFun Run

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Nearly 200 took part in last Saturday's Rotary McFun Run with perennial winners Mamiko Berger and Keith Longuski leading the finishers in the weekend race.

Berger was the overall top finisher in the 10K event, completing the race from the American Memorial Park to the road across Hakubotan in Beach Road and back in 42:21. Longuski, on the other hand, ruled the 5K run from AMP to the 13 Fishermer's pavilion and back in 20:05.

Joining Longuski in the Top 3 in the shorter race last weekend were Agape Christian School's Alan Zhao (22:43) and Saipan Southern High School's Seiya Eda (22:50).

Saipan's middle distance runner Noriko Jim was the fourth overall finisher in the 5K race, but first in the women's division after clocking in at 23:48.

Jim and Longuski received prizes from organizers McDonald's and Rotary Club of Saipan during the brief awards ceremony hosted by T Galleria's Ben Babauta at the Micro Beach pavilion. McDonald's Marcia Ayuyu and other Rotary Club of Saipan officials were also present to award prizes to winners.

The top finishers in each age group were recognized, too at the awards ceremony.

Zhao took the top honors in the boys U19, while Coume

See MCFUN RUN on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Runners head out to the course during last Saturday's Rotary McFun Run.

It's on: Mayweather says he and Pacquiao to fight May 2

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP BOXING WRITER

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The Fight is finally on.

Floyd Mayweather Jr. will meet Manny Pacquiao on May 2 in a welterweight showdown that will be boxing's richest fight ever. Mayweather himself announced the bout Friday after months of negotiations, posting a picture of the signed contract online.

"I promised the fans we would get this done and we did,"

See MAY 2 on Page 26

AP
In this combination of file photos, Floyd Mayweather Jr., left, prepares to spar at a gym in east London on May 22, 2009, and Manny Pacquiao, right, of the Philippines, weighs in for the junior welterweight boxing match against British boxer Ricky Hatton, May 1, 2009, in Las Vegas.